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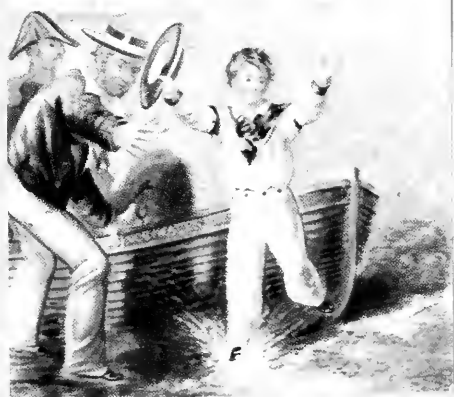




THE BOYHOOD OF A  
GREAT KING







# THE BOYHOOD OF A GREAT KING

1841-1858

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY YEARS OF  
THE LIFE OF HIS MAJESTY EDWARD VII

ILLUSTRATED BY REPRODUCTIONS OF A  
UNIQUE SERIES OF CONTEMPORARY ROYAL  
AUTOGRAPHS, PORTRAITS AND DRAWINGS

By A. M. BROADLEY

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"HOW WE DEFENDED ARABI"; JOINT-AUTHOR OF  
THE "THREE DORSET CAPTAINS AT TRAFALGAR"

HARPER AND BROTHERS  
LONDON AND NEW YORK MCMVI

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TO  
MY MOTHER  
MY FIRST AND BEST TEACHER  
THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED  
ON HER SEVENTY-NINTH  
BIRTHDAY





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## INTRODUCTION

“THE most powerful and popular living Sovereign—King Edward VII.” It was in these terms that the toast of the great grandson of George III. was enthusiastically honoured by a large gathering of representative Americans assembled in their own country on New Year’s Day of the present year. The one remaining link which, as it were, connected the old order of things with the new, was severed just eight days later when the last Parliament of Queen Victoria and the first Parliament of King Edward was dissolved by the King in Council. One has only to contrast the condition of affairs at the beginning of 1901, with that which prevails at the commencement of 1906, to realise not only how much has been effected by the personal influence and exertion of the Sovereign of these realms, and how great must therefore be the interest felt, not only throughout the British Empire but indeed all over the world in everything which can throw new light on the upbuilding and early development of the resourceful, intelligent, vigorous, and wonder-working personality which has, in many cases unaided, effected so much in such a comparatively short space of time. In January 1901 we were in the midst of a costly war which seemed almost interminable; our arch-enemy of those days had just been welcomed with effusion in the French capital; British prestige was seriously threatened

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throughout the length and breadth of Europe ; the only *entente cordiale* we ever heard of was Franco-Russian ; our policy was regarded with universal distrust ; we had no friends and the centre of preponderating influence was gradually gravitating towards Berlin. Five years have rolled by since then, and the transformation which has been brought about is as complete as it is startling and satisfactory. Not only are we at peace with all the world, but it seems probable that a constitution will shortly be given to our foes of 1899, 1900, and 1901—loyal subjects of the King in 1906. The tie of common sympathy and interest which unites members of the Anglo-Saxon race on both sides of the Atlantic has become immeasurably stronger, and no born American possibly enjoys a greater measure of popularity from the border-lands of Canada to the Mexican frontier than King Edward the Peacemaker. As far as England and France are concerned the old friendship of 1855, when the soldiers of both nations fought and suffered shoulder to shoulder on the heights of the Alma, has been restored and intensified, and this in the very year which brought with it the celebration of the centenary of Trafalgar. When the Members of the London County Council returned the visit to England of their colleagues of the Paris Conseil Municipal, President Loubet spoke frankly of the long and pleasant talk he had had nearly seven years ago with the then Prince of Wales, and of the practical results of their more recent meetings on either side of the Channel. King Edward VII. certainly never forgets either his *tête-à-tête* drive through the streets of Paris with Napoleon, or the gorgeous *fête* in the galleries of Versailles—the first great festivity of the kind at which he was ever present. All the passing clouds

## A Powerful Personality

which have arisen in the interval are clean forgotten. If the favourite saying of the Imperial host of those days—*l'Empire c'est le paix*, has long lost all significance, it is not the less true that the future peace of Europe depends very largely on the maintenance of the re-established Anglo-French *entente cordiale*. The children of those who shouted *Vive la Reine* in 1855 have cheered *Le Roi Pacificateur* to the echo, and it seems likely that our "good understanding" with the Third Republic will be of a more lasting character than our alliance with the Second Empire. Since his Majesty's accession the world has witnessed the greatest and bloodiest war which has taken place since all Europe armed itself to resist the unquenchable ambition of Napoleon. It was another "conflict of giants" both by land and sea, and the real extent of the loss of life occasioned by it is probably very imperfectly realised. The importance and utility of the rôle played by King Edward VII. in first limiting the sphere of hostilities, and then bringing about a peace honourable alike to both the belligerent parties, is an open secret in the Chancelleries of Europe. There is no foreign capital which his Majesty has visited since his succession to the throne in which he has not left behind him a legacy of "improved relations." His innate tact and knowledge of statecraft are as remarkable as his dauntless energy and phenomenal activity.

As abroad so at home. No movement of public interest or utility escapes his notice; no detail is too insignificant for his personal attention. Both the King and Queen have become the patrons and protectors of our old hospitals, and the promoters of new ones. The crusade against Disease, and especially the combating of those maladies which affect the poor, is a struggle in which his

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Majesty never tires. Sir James Crichton Browne has recently described him as the hygienic reformer of the age, adding very happily to his remarks on the progress of material sanitation that "The King has raised hygiene into a higher sphere, for he has helped to establish healthy and wholesome relations between the different nations of the earth. His Majesty has purified the streams of international sentiment and has shown us one of the ways in which that horrible epidemic, war, may be warded off."

King Edward VII. is never idle. He is credited rightly or wrongly with working twelve hours every day. At one moment he is conferring with General Booth or Prebendary Carlile on their life-work amongst the poor and helpless; at another he is encouraging thrift by inaugurating the central buildings of some great Benefit Society. An octogenarian soldier appeals in vain for the restoration of his medals lost years ago in a London crowd. He writes of his sorrow to the King, and in due course gets them back from the War Office authorities. On the other hand, a second veteran makes the Press ring with the cruel injustice of the withholding of a pension to which he is entitled as one of the buglers at Waterloo. The King orders a careful investigation, and the imposture is once and for all unmasked and disposed of. Nor is his Majesty ever unmindful of the friends and associations of the boyhood with which this volume deals. A set of the much-coveted apartments at Hampton Court falls vacant. They are promptly bestowed on the only surviving niece of Miss Hildyard, the trusted governess to the children of Queen Victoria, of whom mention will often be made in these pages.

It is a self-evident fact that in the upbringing good or bad of princes, lies the happiness of nations.

## The Copy-books of Kings

To a great extent the copy-books, exercises, and early letters and correspondence of kings and princes are beyond the ken of their subjects, although possessing a great and surpassing interest when considered in relation to the after life, both public and private, of their authors. We know something of the early epistolary skill of Queen Elizabeth and Mary Stuart. A series of learned letters supposed to be the production of the elder son of James I. testify at any rate to the excellence of his handwriting even if the matter of them was inspired by his erudite tutor, Adam Newton,\* to whose care his education was in a measure confided. A book (and by no means an unamusing one) has been written on the over-careful bringing up of the Duke of Gloucester, the precocious son of Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, who never lived to become, as he ardently desired, the Prince of Wales.† Very little is known of the boyhood of the first of the two Georges. Augusta, Princess of Wales, bestowed considerable pains on having her eldest son (George III.) taught so as to acquire a knowledge of two or three languages, obtain a fair mastery of the Classics, and speak in public with both ease and grace. Like that of nearly all his sons his handwriting was a model both for his contemporaries and those who came after them. Thanks principally to the cult of autograph collecting a great many data are obtainable as to the royal nurseries of the latter half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries. Queen Charlotte gave the first laced baby-cap and gown of

\* See p. 31.

† "Memoirs of Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester" [1689-1700], by Jenkin Lewis. Edited by Philip Hayes, Mus. Doc., London, 1789

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her eldest and favourite son (afterwards George IV.) to the Dowager Countess of Effingham, one of her ladies-in-waiting, together with some of his early copy- and exercise-books. These curious relics of royalty came with a well-authenticated pedigree into the possession of Mr. Frederic Madan of the Bodleian Library. Each page is signed and dated in a bold round hand. It is a strange experience to read such lines as these traced by the future King :

“ CHIRON TO ACHILLES.

“ Learn genrous Prince what's little understood  
The godlike happiness of doing good.

\* \* \* \* \*

And think not that your elevated state  
Birth, honours, or the empty name of great  
Can fix your joys ; they ill secur'd unless  
You know yourself to form your happiness.

G. P., *May 15, 1775.*”

About the same time the vellum-bound and neatly written essay and translation books of George IV. and his two brothers, Frederic Duke of York (the constant companion of his studies) and William Duke of Clarence found their way into the sale rooms. Every feature in them is evidently the handiwork of the “royal authors.” They are a marvel of neatness. Carefully ruled red lines provide an ample margin. The title-page of the Prince of Wales's production runs thus :

George P. This volume begun Sept. 24, 1778

Extract  
of the  
First Oration  
of  
Cicero  
against  
Cataline

Spoken before their Majesties in the Picture Gallery  
at Windsor Castle on August 12, 1778.



## Prince “Florizel” as a Penman

It also contains the Choice of Hercules by Prodicus and select passages from Cicero de naturâ Deorum.

Not three years later “Florizel” had already plighted his troth to “Perdita,” and having deserted her was paying his Court to the twice-widowed Maria Fitzherbert at Marble Hall. Prince Frederick writes on the fly-leaf of his book :

TRANSLATIONS FROM TERENCE. FREDERICK.

This volume was begun January 9, 1778

*Dimidium facti qui bene cœpit habet.*

The Andrian and the Adelphi.

Prince William—the “Jolly young Tarry-breeks” of two years later was scarcely as good a penman as either the Prince of Wales or the juvenile Bishop of Osnabrück, but he was getting ready to go to sea, win laurels under Digby, and become for a time the most popular of the five sons of George III. The Prince of Wales was born in 1762 ; the Duke of York in 1763, and the Duke of Clarence two years later. The MS. remark-books of the latter, while on board the *Prince George* in 1779, 1780, and 1781, would do infinite credit to any lad of fourteen or fifteen.

Of the early life of Napoleon’s only son, the King of Rome, very little is known except what may be gathered from his exercise-books which are constantly being offered for sale in the French autograph market page by page. The orthography of Napoleon II. can scarcely be compared with that of George IV. at the same age, but an essay on the merits of Tasso as a poet, sold the other day for forty francs, affords sufficient evidence of considerable originality of thought. Henry Comte de Chambord (scarcely less fortunate in after life than his political rival the Duc de Reichstadt) could, at any rate, boast of

## The Boyhood of a Great King

a handwriting as good as that of George IV. Almost like copper-plate (to use a now well-nigh forgotten simile) is one of his exercises dated St. Cloud, July 28, 1828, and beginning with the words, "François Premier après avoir vaillamment combattu sous les murs de Paris fut fait prisonnier par les Espagnols." At this very time one Miss Pitt was governess at the Court of St. Petersburg, where she enjoyed the entire confidence of the Tsar and Tsarina and the whole of the Romanoff family. Her autograph collection was disposed of a year or two back in London, and to her we are indebted for the copy-book of the then heir to the throne, the future Tsar Alexander II., who in the same year that Napoleon's son was writing about Tasso, penned in four languages, and in a singularly bold and beautiful handwriting the sentence: "He conquers twice who overcomes himself." A still more romantic interest attaches itself to a sheet of the copy-book of the unfortunate Empress Charlotte of Mexico, still alive but long since dead to the world. In her childhood she was a playmate of King Edward VII. and his brothers and sisters at Buckingham Palace, Windsor, and Laeken. Her handwriting is just what one would expect from the carefully trained daughter of the "Uncle Leopold," who gave his English relatives Queen Victoria and Prince Albert such an incomparable mentor as Baron Stockmar.\* There is something sadly prophetic in the sentence: "Il est rare que la jeunesse sente la bonheur et les avantages de sa condition. Charlotte, Laeken, 16 August, 1852." This melancholy memento of early promise and unfulfilled hopes fetched a high price in a Paris auction-room. In London an exceedingly long and interesting letter

\* See p. 12.

## The Upbringing of two Princesses

from Lady Charlotte Finch to her precocious pupil, the Duke of York (then aged six), quite lately was knocked down to a purchaser "in the know," at the nominal price of sixpence.\*

As far as the first half of the nineteenth century is concerned, a peculiar interest will always centre in the nurseries and school-rooms of the Princess Charlotte of Wales at Shrewsbury House, Blackheath, Cranbourne Lodge, and elsewhere. Her tragic and untimely demise in 1817, when next heiress to the English throne, was the signal for an avalanche of biographies, good, bad, and indifferent, from which a good many particulars can be gleaned of her upbringing, which, considering the manifold difficulties which surrounded her from her cradle-days down to the hour of her death, was more satisfactory than one could have imagined. The various authors who have told with more or less eloquence and success the story of the long and honoured life of Queen Victoria have dealt at some length with the days of her youth, spent chiefly in the comparative seclusion of Kensington Palace, at Brighton and other watering-places, or in those excursions regarded with small favour by her kingly uncle, who was pleased to laugh at what they called "Victoria's royal progresses." Possibly this portion of the biography of the late Queen has been most carefully and effectively dealt with by the Duke of Argyll† who in accomplishing what to him must have been a labour of love, had access for the first time to the diary of Dr. Davys, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough, who discharged for many years

\* See p. 45 *post*.

† "V.R.I. Queen Victoria: Her Life and Empire." By his Grace the Duke of Argyll. Harper & Brothers, London and New York, 1902.

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with rare conscientiousness the responsible duties of tutor to the future Queen of England, as well as to sundry memoranda made by the late Duchess of Cleveland, who, as Lady Wilhelmina Stanhope, was one of Queen Victoria's bridesmaids. The details of the upbringing of her late Majesty are worthy of something more than a passing mention, as throwing considerable light on the training of all her children, and specially on the early education and home-life of King Edward VII., the immediate subject of this volume.

A very readable and reliable life of King Edward VII. has been written with infinite care by Mr. James Penderel-Brodhurst.\* It is not probable that anything like an official biography of his Majesty will be attempted during his life time. Indeed, it is generally understood that any attempt at such a work would be regarded with disfavour by his Majesty, and for obvious reasons must be incomplete and unsatisfactory. As far as an unofficial narrative of the life of King Edward VII. up to his Coronation is concerned, Mr. Penderel-Brodhurst has very happily and satisfactorily supplied the natural demand of British subjects in all parts of the world. The present writer was able to place at the disposal of Mr. Penderel-Brodhurst some of the characteristic illustrations of the King's childhood which afterwards led to his acquiring the large and interesting collection of drawings, autographs, etchings and contemporary prints used in the compilation of this volume, the object of which is to tell the story of what he has ventured to call, without fear of contradiction, the "Boyhood of a Great King." He will do this as

\* "The Life of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. from his Birth to his Coronation," by J. Penderel-Brodhurst, with numerous illustrations. Four volumes. London: H. Virtue and Co. N.D.

## Troublous Times

much as possible by the aid of those contemporary illustrations and letters, without entering more than absolutely necessary on the social and political history of England or Europe during those two "troublous" decades of the mid-nineteenth century in which the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Consort grew up to manhood.

The period of our annals, which lies between 1841-1851 was pre-eminently one of disquietude and unrest both at home and on the Continent. Widespread distress amongst the poorer classes and the merits of Free Trade as opposed to Protection were burning questions in 1841, as they are strangely enough in 1906. Possibly they were discussed with even greater vehemence and intensity than they are now. The spirit of Chartism was in the air. Rumours of plots and counterplots were ripe, but they came to nought like the great demonstration so adroitly checkmated by the Duke of Wellington, when the future Emperor of the French was amongst those sworn in as special constables. It is evident that troubles such as these were never permitted to disturb the serenity of the atmosphere which pervaded first the nurseries and then the school-rooms of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and Claremont, and afterwards of Osborne and Balmoral.

In the "forties" and "fifties" of the last century letter-writing was by no means a lost art as it is at present. Both the Queen and Prince Albert were capable and diligent correspondents. Sir Theodore Martin in his monumental work on the Prince Consort,\* has enabled us to realise very

\* The Life of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort," by Theodore Martin, with portraits and views. Five vols. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1875.

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vividly the rare powers of King Edward's gifted father as a writer of letters, every line of which is strongly imbued with that artistic spirit which entered so largely into his temperament. Both the Queen and her husband wielded the pens of "ready writers," and it may be confidently expected that the important portion of her late Majesty's correspondence which is to see the light during the present year, will considerably enhance the high reputation she already deservedly enjoys not only as a consummate mistress of statecraft, but as a descriptive writer of more than ordinary ability. As might be expected, letter-writing entered very largely into the carefully thought-out scheme of education which seems to have been the result of the strong common sense, the far-seeing wisdom and the unselfish devotion of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and Baron Stockmar, described by Lord Palmerston, a statesman certainly not prone to flattery, as "the most disinterested man he ever knew." It has ever been said that the words actually used were "*The only perfectly disinterested man I ever met with.*" Sir Theodore Martin is one of the few who form a living link between the boyhood of King Edward VII. and the first years of his auspicious reign. Possibly the monograph which he is about to publish on Baron Stockmar will tell us more of the share taken by the astute author of the apothegm, "A man's education begins from the day of his birth," in elaborating the programme for the upbringing of the nine royal children, of which the above sentence may be taken as the key-note. Almost as soon as the Prince of Wales and his elder sister were able to read and write, they began to compose letters as well as to receive them. Possibly, this early letter-writing was a family tradition of the

## Lessons and Letters

House of Hanover. The lengthy epistles addressed to the Duke of York at the age of six, by his governess, Lady Charlotte Finch, and four years later by his tutor, Mr. Leonard Smelt (the friend of Elizabeth Montagu and Fanny Burney) would certainly lend colour to such a supposition. All the daughters of George III. and Queen Charlotte were, from their youth upwards, untiring and by no means uninteresting correspondents. It is even said that a daily exchange of letters was considered *de rigueur* by Queen Victoria as soon as her children were able to pen them. In the large illustrated edition of the Duke of Argyll's\* biography of Queen Victoria is given a quaint illustration of letters written by her in her sixth and seventh year. The latter is what one would have expected of the mother of King Edward VII. A much earlier note by Queen Victoria in printed characters is preserved in the British Museum. Not only were the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales encouraged to write letters to their parents and to each other, but they carried on a constant correspondence for many years both with "grandmama" (the Duchess of Kent) and their great-aunt the kindly and always sympathetic Queen Dowager, who was always regarded as a member of the family circle.

About four years ago a case was purchased by that well-known collector, Mr. Frank T. Sabin of 118 Shaftesbury Avenue. It was inscribed "Etchings, Autographs, &c., of Queen and Royal Family," and contained not only an original drawing by the Prince of Wales (now King Edward VII.) and another by the Princess Royal (her late

\* "V.R.I. Her Life and Empire." By the Marquis of Lorne, K.T., now his Grace the Duke of Argyll. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1901.

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Imperial Majesty the Empress Frederick) and a series of etchings and etched portraits (including several of the two elder royal children) executed by the Queen and Prince Albert in the earlier days of their happy married life, but several letters written by the Queen, the Duchess of Kent, and Queen Adelaide to them between the years 1846 and 1850, and by the Princess Royal to her brother the Prince of Wales. In addition to these etchings and letters (all of them of undoubted authenticity) were other items of equal interest, such as transcripts of the morning and evening prayers used by the Prince of Wales, sheets from the copy-books of both the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred (the late Duke of Edinburgh) and last, but not least, a characteristic portion of an autograph letter or note of the present King which runs as follows :

*Let not know how it is that I  
am ever naughty for I am  
much happier when I am  
good : and I mean to  
try to please M<sup>r</sup>. & M<sup>rs</sup>.*

Here, at any rate, we have an early confession of faith under the hand of our present sovereign which may console us for the possibility of the oft-repeated story of the exclamation of his royal mother, "I will be good" on seeing the genealogical tree adroitly inserted by Baroness Lehzen in the history-book, being after all apocryphal. There is nothing whatever in this unique collection which may not be published without fear of committing an indiscretion. From first to last the letters on both sides throw a charming light on the happy home-



## Death of the Princess Charlotte

life which helped so materially to mould the character of King Edward VII., as well as on the personal share taken at all costs alike by mother, father, grandmother, and great-aunt in the first training of the heir to the throne as well as that of his brothers and sisters. It is difficult to realise the far-reaching consequences of the new system of mental and moral education of which Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, aided by Baron Stockmar, were the pioneers.

When the Princess Charlotte passed away two years before the birth, and twenty years before the accession of her first cousin Queen Victoria (one of whose numerous biographers persists in styling the former aunt of the latter), the only possible inheritors of the throne in the younger generation were the two sons of "Brunswick's gallant chieftain" who fell at Waterloo, and were then aged thirteen and twelve respectively. After the Prince Regent came the childless Duke of York born in 1763, and his brother of Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, Sussex, and Cambridge. Great was the consternation in the minds of those to whom fell the task of chronicling the beauty and the virtues of the high-spirited Princess "dead 'ere her prime," whose father, Lord Houghton assures us, declared that "the nation had had a lucky escape, as she would have made a bad Queen." "The outlook was terrible," wrote one of them, "particularly when we contemplate that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the blood of Buonaparte may, at some not very remote period, put forth a claim to the throne of Great Britain ; since the issue of the Princess of Wurtemberg would be strictly (if Protestant and legitimate) within the line of succession in failure of the young Brunswick Princes,

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of the present King of Wurtemberg and of his brother Prince Paul; unless indeed that the British Legislature should add an additional clause to the Act of Settlement, forbidding all such progeny to have any hopes of an interest in the succession." \*

As a matter of fact after Duke Charles and Duke William of Brunswick came as numbers 22 and 23 on the genealogical tree of which the Baroness Lehzen tells so good a story, Princess Frederic of Wurtemberg and her son Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, born in 1814, and destined forty years later to meet Queen Victoria and her Consort in Paris as the unpopular "Plon Plon" of the Crimean War, and the *bête noire* of the Empress Eugénie. After him came a no less inconvenient personage than Caroline of Brunswick, Princess of Wales, whose *vie orageuse* was to come to an end three years later, and whom Thomas Hardy, in the masterly sixth act of the second part of *The Dynasts* depicts as going to her husband's Carlton House *fête* unbidden and secretly, saying as she resolves to do so :

"Mine God, I'll go disguised—in some dead name  
And enter by the leetle, sly, chair-door,  
Designed for those not opened welcomed openly.  
There unobserved I'll note my new supplanter !  
'Tis indiscreet ? Let indiscretion rule  
Since caution pensioned me so scurvily."†

The biographer of the Princess Charlotte adds almost prophetically "of the match between the Duke of Kent and sister of the House of Saxe Coburg, it has been justly asserted that there is

\* "Biographical Memoir of the Public and Private Life of the much lamented Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales and Saxe-Coburg." London: John Booth, 1817.

† "The Dynasts, A Drama of the Napoleonic Wars," by Thomas Hardy Part second, p. 283. London: Macmillan and Co., 1906.

## The Succession in 1817 and 1901

‘no union which the nation would hail with more rapturous delight, and for the establishment of which they would more promptly and liberally contribute.’ ”

The marriage thus faintly fore-shadowed takes place, and more than eighty years later Queen Victoria dies full of years, and goes down to her grave amidst the lamentations of an empire. Very different then is the genealogical tree of the House of Hanover placed at the end of the admirable volume of biography issued by the *Times*,\* shortly after the Queen’s demise. No less than eighty-six of her descendants come next in succession to the British Crown, and those who delight in puzzles and conundrums may amuse themselves by calculating by the aid of the “Almanach de Gotha” the present position in the table of the sons of the Jerome Bonaparte of 1817, whose name seems to have excited the traditional terror notwithstanding the safe detention of his uncle the great Napoleon at St. Helena. When one reflects that amongst these descendants of Queen Victoria are the present Emperor of Germany, Tsarina of Russia and Queen of Norway, to say nothing of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt,—as well as of the future Queens of Sweden, Spain, Greece, and Roumania,—Queen Victoria will live in history as the mother of endless generations of European rulers. Hence the peculiar importance of the system of education and training devised more than sixty years ago by her husband and herself for the benefit of their own children, who have in turn become the fathers and mothers

\* “The Life of Queen Victoria,” reproduced from the *Times*, London: The *Times* and Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Limited, 1901.

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of so many potential kings and queens, and the singular interest of everything which can throw light on the boyhood and upbringing of the monarch rightfully described by one of his many American admirers as "the most powerful and popular of living sovereigns."

It is in the achievements of King Edward VII. that we shall find the best monument of the wisdom, the self-denial, the devotion and the far-sightedness of both his father and mother, who after all were primarily responsible for the mental, moral, and physical training of their children. Sir Theodore Martin's admirable eulogy of the Prince Consort, who contrived ultimately to find equal favour in the eyes of Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, is fresh in most men's minds. To all of them he was sooner or later "a quite marvellous young man." Somehow or other, one can hardly help feeling that he lived quite half a century before his time. On December 14, 1878, died the "little Alice," her father's darling in the early days of Osborne and Balmoral. She survived him sixteen years to the very day. In her *Memoirs*,\* understood to be prepared by Dr. Sell, a clergyman of Darmstadt, and for which Princess Christian, the Princess Helena of the Queen's Journal, wrote a touching introduction, occurs a brief pen-picture of the Prince Consort which may assuredly be appropriately quoted in connection with the immediate subject of this volume :

"By his strength of character and rare energy of intellect, combined with a thorough self-control,

\* "Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland," *Biographical Sketch and Portraits*. London : John Murray, 1884.

## Albert, Prince Consort of England

and an unswerving devotion to the duties of his position, he succeeded in gaining the love and esteem of a nation which, though it keeps watch over its rights and privileges with peculiar jealousy, knows also how to show great generosity, when once it has learnt to trust and to love. With his wonderful power of mastering new and difficult subjects he made himself familiar with the history and policy, the social and agricultural conditions, the industries and commercial relations of his adopted country. In his position of intimate confidential adviser to the sovereign he showed the greatest tact, and gained the affection and respect of the Ministers who succeeded one another at the head of affairs ; whilst the more he became known the more his genuine worth was appreciated by the nation at large. Chief of all two nations have acknowledged with grateful admiration, that under his influence there grew up in the midst of the most brilliant Court in Europe a domestic family life, so perfect in its purity in charm that it might well serve for a bright example to every home in the land."

All that Sir Bernard Burke Ulster, King of Arms, has to record of the present sovereign of these realms (the Prince of Wales of this volume) is as follows :

" Edward VII. by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India. His Majesty was born at Buckingham Palace, November 9, 1841, and baptized at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, January 25, 1842. He succeeded at his birth to the Dukedom of Cornwall in the Peerage of England, to the Dukedom of Rothesay, the Earldom of Carrick and the Barony of Renfrew in the Peerage

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of Scotland, and as Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland.

“He was created by Patent, December 8, 1841, Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, and by Patent, January 17, 1850, Earl of Dublin, all in the Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The King ascended the throne at the decease of her Majesty Queen Victoria, January 22, 1901, when the Dukedom of Cornwall and his Scottish honours passed to his only surviving son, while his titles created by Patent merged in the Crown. On his creation as Prince of Wales his Majesty became K.G. in accordance with the statutes of the Order.”

The reason for making this quotation at the onset will be apparent when the time comes to deal with certain controversial questions regarding the “style” of the Heir Apparent which arose immediately after his birth. Like all former writers who have dealt with the life of the late Queen of glorious memory, or the history of the royal family, the writer gratefully acknowledges the help he has derived from such easily accessible sources as the two standard biographies of the Prince Consort,\* but a great many more ephemeral and less well-known memoirs and tracts exist from which much interesting information can be gleaned to supplement the different items contained in the collection already alluded to. Other fruitful sources of long-forgotten data connected with the youth of the King are to be found in the pages of the two great newspapers which, as it were, have grown up and become British

\* “The Early Years of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, compiled under the direction of the Queen,” by Lieut.-General the Honbl. C. Grey. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1867. “The Life of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort,” by Theodore Martin, 5 vols. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1875.

## The Caricaturists of the "Forties"

institutions with his Majesty. *Punch* is not quite five months the King's senior; the *Illustrated London News* just eight weeks his junior. In the original prospectus of *Punch*, dated July 17, 1841, "This Guffawgraph" was spoken of as "intended to form a refuge for destitute wit—an asylum for the thousands of orphan jokes—the superannuated Joe Millers—the millions of perishing puns, which are now wandering about without so much as a shelf to rest on." Gillray, Rowlandson, Woodward, together with several minor but not less merciless tormentors of the last two Georges were dead long before King Edward VII. was born: George Cruikshank, then verging on fifty, had foresworn political for social subjects of satire, and the portfolio of caricatures from the repositories of Fores and Ackermann no longer formed an indispensable part of the programme of a fashionable evening party. *Punch* quietly but effectually ousted all rivals from the field. John Doyle, the popular H. B. of those days, still held his own, but he had no taste for the coarse and brutal onslaughts which made the latter days of the wasted life of George the Magnificent a burden to him. His son, the great "Dicky Doyle" of *Punch*, then a stripling of seventeen, was just beginning to sketch, and John Leech, seven years his senior, had lately made a great hit by a series of comic designs holding up the much abused Mulready envelopes to possibly well-merited ridicule. Cruikshank was too busy with illustrations for Ainsworth's "Tower of London," and "Guy Fawkes" to think of the happy young couple enjoying, despite sundry worries and anxieties, what appeared to be a perpetual honeymoon at Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle. Unless the writer is much mistaken it was John Leech

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who drew the first caricature portrait of King Edward VII., destined some sixty years later to confer a knighthood on Sir Francis Burnand, the genial and popular humorist who has just transferred the traditional cap and bells to Mr. Owen Seaman. In his salad days *Punch* showed an unmistakable inclination to poke fun at Mrs. Lilly, the nurse who "officiated" at the birth of all the Queen's children. There was something irresistible in the idea of having a Court Circular edited by the "Boy Jones" who distinguished himself by frequently effecting an entrance to Buckingham Palace at all sorts of inconvenient times, and whose services the editor announced he had "succeeded in retaining though opposed by the enlightened manager of a metropolitan theatre, whose anxiety to advance the interest of the drama is only equalled by his ignorance of the means." In an early issue, "Mr. Punch" declares its intention of undertaking the onerous duties of the education of the Princess Royal, and as a beginning furnishes a facetious Anglo-Italian version of Ride-a-cock horse, which has received the unqualified approval of Mrs. Ratsey, the nurse of her Royal Highness. The parody is entitled *Su Gallo Cavallo*, an Italian Cavatina sung with unbounded applause by Mrs. Ratsey at the private concerts of the infant Princess. Next comes "The Royal Rhythmical Alphabet" to be said or sung by the Infant Princess :

" L's for Mrs. Lilley who was once a nurse of mine ;  
R's for Mrs. Ratsey who taught *me* this pretty song ;  
V's for Victoria ' the Bess of forty-one ;'  
X is for the Treble X Lilly drank three times a day."

From the first the *Illustrated London News* showed a decorous loyalty to the Queen and a proper venera-



## Cake and Caudle

tion for the Constitution. Under a fanciful vignette, drawn apparently by Mr. Kenny Meadows, a weekly article entitled for many years "The Court and Haut Ton," abundant information was vouchsafed as to the occasional summonings of Mrs. Lilly, the more constant attendance of Lady Lyttelton and the daily "airings" of the "royal infants." One of the earliest efforts of the new venture was a picture of the Prince of Wales in a laced cap playing in his mother's arms.

The "birthday ode" which found favour at the Court of the four Georges had disappeared in 1841, along with the cake and caudle which the public were allowed to indulge in gratuitously on the occasion of royal christenings. The vocation of the Cibbers, Whiteheads, Whartons, and Pyes had disappeared. Nearly eighty-one years separated the birth of the last Prince of Wales of the eighteenth from that of the first and only Prince of Wales of the nineteenth century. It is curious to contrast the circumstances which attended the two events. It is still more interesting to compare the system of education (the word is used in its most comprehensive sense) which prevailed in the case of King Edward VII. and that which formed, as it were, the prelude to the reigns of his predecessors from the accession of James I. at the dawn of the seventeenth century down to the death of Queen Victoria in the first month of the first year of the twentieth. At the dispersal of Sir William Fraser's library four years ago, a thick volume was sold, composed partly of MS., partly of tracts, and partly of newspaper cuttings, and bearing the strange title of "Laureated Leaves and Rhymes for Royalty; New Year and Birth Day Odes, with some Trim Tram of the Times, collected towards a History

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of the Laureateship." August 12, 1762, the birthday of George Augustus, Prince of Wales, was the anniversary of the first accession of the House of Hanover. It was signalised, moreover, with the treasure of the captured Spanish galleon *Hermione* being dragged past St. James's Palace with trumpets sounding, and the enemy's flags flying over the heavily laden waggons. No wonder that cake and caudle was served to all comers, and that the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal made ready to sing the congratulatory poem sent up red hot from Oxford, by worthy Dr. Wharton, the Poet Laureate, and containing such a verse as :

"For lo, to Britain and her favour'd pair  
Heaven's high command has sent a sacred heir !  
Him, the bold patron of his patriot Sire  
Shall fill with early fame immortal fire,  
In life's fresh spring, ere buds the promis'd prime,  
His thoughts shall mount to virtues meeds sublime."

But even more fulsome flatterers were ready to chant the praises of the infant Florizel.

Here is a portion of another birthday ode :

"Britannia, as lately she sat on her Throne,  
And view'd the vast ocean and view'd it her own,  
Father Time, her old Crony, hobbled up with his Scythe,  
And told her he'd news which would make her heart blythe.

\* \* \* \* \*

My heart beats with joy, whilst enraptur'd I sing  
An English heir's born to your lov'd English King !

\* \* \* \* \*

Your joys are complete for your lov'd George's line  
Till I, Time myself, am no more, is to shine ;  
I'm hurrying to fate now to cut Matters short all,  
From Jove with an order to make it Immortal.

\* \* \* \* \*

May she still by their Care ! Oh ! great Jove ne'er neglect her !  
Let her ne'er want a George to revenge or protect her."

And yet another which beats both the preceding ones in the exuberance of its hyperbolic absurdities :

## Birthday Odes and their Makers

" Britons, rejoice ! let Acclamations ring  
To us a Prince is born, our children's King ;  
A Briton from a Briton, we have born,  
To grace this glorious this auspicious Morn  
A Morn on which his Grandsire blest our Isle ;  
'Twas glorious first of August in our Stile.

\* \* \* \* \*

To accompany his Birth, oh ! see at Hand  
The gold of Ophir bless this happy Land ;  
And as a timely Blessing to our Earth  
The Clouds drop fatness at th' auspicious Birth."

William Wordsworth made no sign as to the ninth of November, 1841, although the theme was by no means unpropitious. Sundry impromptu verses were added that evening to the National Anthem and the audience welcomed them with boisterous applause. A little more than three years later the event inspired a poem by one of the cleverest and most beautiful women of the time—Caroline Norton, the fascinating grand-daughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Somewhat scant justice to her remarkable verses is done by her latest biographer,\* who tells us that "in 1845 she (Caroline Norton) published 'The Child of the Islands,' a poem intended to draw the attention of the Prince of Wales (then an infant four years old) to the condition of the people of this country with a view of bridging the gulf between rich and poor . . . but poetry and pamphleteering do not yoke well together."

It will be remembered that "Lord of the Isles" is one of the hereditary Scotch titles of the eldest son of British sovereigns. The preface written at 3, Chesterfield Street, Mayfair, is dated March 20, 1845, and explains that the publication of the book was intended to take place on November 9, 1842,

\* "Some Famous Women of Wit and Beauty," by John Fyvie. London : Archibald Constable, 1905.

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but had been unavoidably delayed by “a recurrence of domestic affliction.” The dainty volume of white and gold has a carefully drawn allegorical frontispiece by David Maclise. On a fly-leaf the use of Jeremy Bentham’s words: “If the poor had more justice, they would need less charity” lends colour to Mr. Fyvie’s idea as to the moral teaching intended to be conveyed by such undeniably beautiful verses as :

“ *Child of the Islands !* if the watch of love  
To even the meanest of these fates belong,  
What shall *thine* be, whose lot is far above  
All other fortunes woven in my song ?  
To guard *thy* head from danger and from wrong  
What countless voices lift their prayers to Heaven !  
Those, whose own loves crowd round (a happy throng !)  
Those, for whom Death the blessed tie hath riven ;  
And those to whose scathed age no verdant branch hath given !

There’s not a noble matron in the land,  
Whose christen’d heir in gorgeous robes is drest,—  
There’s not a cottage mother, whose fond hand  
Rocks the low cradle of her darling’s rest,  
By whom thou art not thought upon and blest,  
Blest for thyself and for *her* lineage high  
Who lulled thee on her young maternal breast ;  
The queenly lady with the clear blue eye,  
Through whom thou claimest love, and sharest loyalty ! ”

And again :

“ *Child of the Islands !* thou whose cradle-bed  
Was hallowed still with night and morning prayer !  
Thou, whose first thoughts were reverently led  
To heaven, and taught betimes to anchor there !  
Thou, who wert reared with fond peculiar care,  
In happiest leisure, and in holiest light !  
Wilt *thou* not feed the lamp whose lustre rare  
Can break the darkness of the fearful night  
Midst dim bewild’ring paths to guide faint steps aright ?

\* \* \* \* \*

## Child of the Islands

Wilt thou not help to educate the poor ?

They will learn something, whether taught or no ;  
The Mind's low dwelling hath an open door,

Whence, wandering still uneasy, to and fro  
It gathers that it should, or should not know.

Oh, train the fluttering of that restless wing !  
Guide the intelligence that worked woe !

So shall the Summer answer to the Spring  
And a well-guided youth an age of duty know.

\* \* \* \* \*

Keep thou the reverence of a youthful heart

To Age and Merit in thy native land ;  
Nor deem *Condition* sets thee far apart ;

*Above*, but not *Aloof*, a Prince should stand :  
Still near enough, to stretch the friendly hand

To those whose names had never reached the throne,  
But for great deeds, performed in small command ;

Since thus the gallant wearers first were known,  
Hallow those names ; although not Royal like thine own."

Under the heading of Winter :

" *Child of the Islands !* Thou art one by birth  
In whom the weak ones see a human guide ;

A Lily in the garden of their earth

That toilest not, but yet are well supplied,  
With costly luxuries and robes of pride.

Thy word shall lead full many a wavering soul,  
Behoves thee therefore hold thyself allied

With the Mind-workers, that thy good control  
May serve *His*, whose light shines out from pole to pole."

And in the Conclusion :

" . . . Royal Child, thou art to me

Only the sculptured image of a thought ;  
A type of this world's rank and luxury

Through whom the poet's lesson may be taught :  
The deeds which are by this world's mercy wrought,

Lie in the compass of a narrow bound ;  
Our life's ability,—which is as nought,—

Our life's duration,—which is but sound,—  
And then an echo, heard still faintly lingering round.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Meanwhile since Death, and Sorrow, and Disease,  
Bid helpless hearts a barren pity feel ;  
Why to the *Poor* shall checked compassion freeze ?  
*Brothers* be gentle to that *one* appeal,—  
*Want* is the only woe God gives you power to heal.”

\* \* \* \* \*

If the authoress seriously intended to “point a moral” it makes her verses prophetic as well as beautiful. This is assuredly no case of the ill-starred union of the poetic afflatus with the prosaic instincts of the pamphleteer. It is to be regretted that Mrs. Norton (who died the wife of Sir William Stirling Maxwell the cultured author of the “*Cloister Life of Charles V.*”) never lived to see dreams of the “*Child of the Islands*” fully realised, for an intelligent sympathy with the legitimate grievances of the poor and an earnest desire to ameliorate their condition enter very largely into the ideas of the enlightened sovereign during whose early boyhood and in whose honour these graceful and sympathetic lines were originally penned.

## CHAPTER I

### THE ROYAL NURSERIES AND SCHOOL-ROOMS OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

THE story of the upbringing of Princes in Stuart times and in that of their successors, the first three Kings of the House of Hanover, begins appropriately enough with the accession of James I. of England and VI. of Scotland on the death of Queen Elizabeth, the last of our Tudor sovereigns. The monarch who inherited the throne of England on the 24th of March, 1603, was addressed by his followers and flatterers as the Royal Solomon. Posterity has dubbed him the "Wisest Fool in Christendom," and a friendly critic styles him with sufficient accuracy "the most learned, the most pedantic, and the most voluminous of royal authors." His two sons enjoyed in turn the rank and dignity of Prince of Wales. It was for the benefit of Henry Frederick, born on February 19, 1594, and created Duke of Rothesay some six months later [August 30, 1594] that he drew up, and published privately at Edinburgh in 1599 the "Basilikon Doron," or "His Majesty's Instruction to his dearest sonne Prince Henry." Here is a specimen of its portentous contents :

Book II. "Anent a King's Duetie in his Office."

"But as ye are clothed with two callings, so must ye be alike carefull for the discharge of them both ;

## The Boyhood of a Great King

that as ye are a good Christian, so ye may be a good King, discharging your office in the poynts of justice and æquitie; which in two sundry waies ye must do: the one, in establishing and executing (which is the life of the lawe) good lawes among your people; the other, by your behaviour in your owne person and with your servauntes, to teach your people by your example; for people are naturally inclyned to counterfaite (like Apes) their Prince's manners" and so forth.

It is not astonishing that James Stuart was looked on by his courtiers as a paragon of theoretical virtue, and that he enjoyed the reputation of being the greatest authority of his time on the "making of future Kings." Like begets like. The "*Basilikon Doron*" was the forerunner of a swarm of dainty volumes devised for the purpose of gratifying the vanity of its author. A typical example of these is George Marcelline's "*Les Trophées dv Roi Iacques I. de la Grande Bretagne,—et Irelande Defensevr de la Foy. Dressés sur l'inscription seulement, e son Advertissement à tous les Rois, Princes, & Potentates de la Chrestienté; confirmés par le merueilleuses actions de Diev en sa vie. Voyez, dediez, et consacrez av tres-illvstre Prince [Henri] de Galles,*" published in 1609. In this eulogistic extravaganza the young Prince of Wales is frequently addressed as "*Mon Jeune Cæsar,*" and "*Grand Alexandrc.*" The edition in French was followed by one in English. The nursery days of "*Young Cæsar*" were apparently short, for before he was a year old [January 28, 159<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub>] Margaret Master-town "*mistress-nurse to the Prince*" received her discharge, the royal infant being handed over to the care of his "*hereditary guardian*" Arabella,



## The Royal Solomon and his Sons

Countess of Mar. In July 1599, Adam Newton was appointed to be his tutor.\* The death of Queen Elizabeth which gave the father the throne of England, made the son Duke of Cornwall. In August 1605, at the age of eleven, he matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford. A full year before that proposals for his marriage were receiving serious consideration. On June 4, 1610, he was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. On November 6, 1612, he died. It is to be hoped that the system of educational "forcing" to which he had apparently been subjected, had nothing to do with the catastrophe.

Charles Stuart, who was raised to the rank of Prince of Wales just five months after his brother's demise, was born on November 19, 1600, and had already received the titles of Duke of Albany (December 23, 1600), and Duke of York (January 16, 1605). Of his early training under the care of Lord and Lady Fyvie, and his governess Lady Cary very little is known. His first letters afford sufficient evidence that, like his brother, he was a ready scholar. If contemporary writers burned their incense liberally at the altar of Henry Frederick, the contemporary engraver did not forget the shrine of his brother and successor. Under the pretty little print of the boy-prince by Richard Elstrack, one reads the astounding legend :

"Great Britain is thy birth ; but the Earth  
Stoops to thy virtue which exceeds thy birth.  
Live then, and conquer till victorious warre  
Make thy rule endles as thy virtues are."

Elstrack may have been an adroit courtier and a good portraitist. He was certainly a bad prophet.

\* See Introduction, p. 5.

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That Charles II. (born May 29, 1630), and his brother James II. (born October 14, 1633) ever acquired any book-learning at all is astonishing, for the days of their youth—at any rate the greater and more important part of them—were passed amidst wars and tumults, in marching and counter-marching, in sudden flights by night, and finally in exile beyond the seas. The second Charles Stuart, who was granted an establishment as Prince of Wales at the age of eight, and took his seat in the House of Lords ten days later, was not nineteen when his father, whom he had never seen since 1645, died upon the scaffold. He was unquestionably a boy of more than ordinary intelligence, and learnt his lessons rapidly. His nurse bore (for him) the auspicious name of Wyndham. His first governess was the Countess of Dorset. William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, and Bishop Brian Duppa eventually became respectively his governor and tutor. This was in 1638. Four years later, when (nominally at any rate) he was appointed to the command of a troop of Life Guards, the Marquis of Hereford was made Governor of the Prince of Wales. He was a little later succeeded by the Earl of Berkshire. James II., the last of the Stuart Kings *de facto*, was never Prince of Wales. The title of Duke of York (not at that time of particularly happy omen) was conferred upon him, either at or shortly after his christening. He learned what he could from his “governors,” Sir George Radcliffe and the Earl of Northumberland. His nursery and school-room days were necessarily few. He was reared in “tribulations and dangers oft.” Before he was ten he had been refused admission to the gates of Hull, and it was only by rare good fortune that he escaped capture on the field of Edgehill. His natural

## A Doctor at Twenty

ability (later in life displayed to great advantage as head of the Navy) was certainly above the average.

William III., born at the Hague in the winter which preceded the eventful flight of his brother-in-law King Charles II. (*de jure* at any rate) after Worcester fight, owed a great deal to the careful training of his able mother, Mary, Princess Royal of England, the eldest daughter of Charles I. His father had died before his birth, and for fourteen years the widowed Princess of Orange devoted herself to personally superintending with more than ordinary intelligence, the education of her son—destined by the irony of fate to snatch the sceptre of her unlucky father from the hands of her scarcely more fortunate brother. At the age of nine he entered the famous University of Leyden. He was soon able to speak four languages with equal ease, and understood three others. Charles de St. Evremont declares that “no person of the Prince’s age and quality was ever master of so good a turn of wit.”

When the two great English Universities made him a Doctor while in his twentieth year, it was no empty compliment. This was in 1670. Thirty-two years later William of Orange (Doctor of Laws at both Oxford and Cambridge) died King of England after a reign of thirteen years.

*with* His successor, Queen Anne, was the daughter of his deposed brother-in-law James II. Her education and early training had not by any means been neglected. Like the Electress Sophia of Hanover, who predeceased her by only a few months, she was both a painstaking and capable letter-writer. Beyond informing us that she was a sickly child, and that Lady Frances Villiers, a daughter of the Duke of Suffolk, was her first governess, the writer of her memoirs in the “Dictionary of National Bio-

## The Boyhood of a Great King

graphy," tells us very little of her girlhood. He is presumably more concerned with her theological and political views than with her early mental and physical training. In 1577 when she was twelve, Dr. Edward Lake was appointed to discharge the often-combined duties of chaplain and tutor, and prepared her for confirmation. At this time Bathshua Makin's school at Tottenham enjoyed a well-merited reputation amongst ladies of the higher classes.\* Mrs. Makin had in her youth taught Charles I.'s little daughter, the Princess Elizabeth, so efficiently, that "at nine years old, she could write, read, and in some measure understand Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Italian." She was even more learned than her namesake Queen Elizabeth, who, just a century before, was said by Ascham to "read more *Greek* in a day than many Doctors of her time did *Latin* in a week." It was to Princess Anne's sister, Queen Mary, that Mrs. Makin (who lived to be the tutoress of Elizabeth Montagu's mother) dedicated her elaborate treatise which she entitled "An Essay to revive the Ancient Education of Gentlewomen in Religion, Manners, Arts, and Tongues : With an Answer to the Objections against this way of Education." It is not impossible that this enlightened lady (whose portrait adorned with no less than four Latin inscriptions, William Marshall has bequeathed to us) had something to do with the upbringing of Queen Mary and Queen Anne, as she was doubtless a *persona grata* at Court. Two of her Greek letters are preserved in the British Museum, but there is no record of the date of her death. She kept "schools and colleges of the young gentlewomen" at Putney,

\* "A Lady of the Last Century (Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu)," by Dr. Doran, F.S.A. London : Richard Bentley, 1855.

## A Forgotten Tract

in 1649, and a quarter of a century later her "female seminary" at Tottenham High Cross was at the zenith of its prosperity.

It is to Dr. Philip Hayes, a notable musical composer and *virtuoso* of the eighteenth century, that we are indebted for the preservation of the first detailed account of the upbringing of a presumptive heir to the British Crown.\* Philip Hayes occupies a place in the annals of George III.'s reign akin to that filled a century later by the late Sir Arthur Sullivan and Signor Paolo Tosti. He is the author of anthems, glees, and songs innumerable. He was at one time Heather Professor of Music at Oxford, Organist of Magdalen, and one or two other Colleges, and a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal. He was literally the heaviest man of a generation distinguished by an abundance of adipose tissue. His favourite name at the University was "Fill Chaise," and when he hired two seats on the London coach to secure a comfortable place the guard non-plussed him by booking one inside, and the other out. He provided all the incidental music for the celebrated Blenheim theatricals, and enjoyed the intimate friendship of the then reigning Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and their talented children. When Philip Hayes died in London in 1797, he was honoured by a public musical funeral in St. Paul's, all the three royal choirs attending it. It was probably in his capacity of Gentleman of the Chapel Royal that Dr. Hayes came across the forgotten tract of Jenkin Lewis, which he completed and re-edited. The memoirs of the Duke of Gloucester thus happily handed down to us, throw considerable light on the system of education in favour at Court during the last

\* See Preface, p. 5.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

decade of the seventeenth century. Queen Anne's son was born in the first year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary, his uncle by marriage and his aunt. The event we are assured "gave great joy to the whole nation, which soon spread itself to the Hibernian and Scottish shores." The infant Prince must have suffered from a veritable plethora of nurses. Mrs. Shermon, Mrs. Wanley, and Mrs. Pack, all took him in charge. He had convulsions, and was removed for his health's sake to Lord Craven's house in Kensington Gravel Pits. "There," we learn, "the young Prince thrived and went out every day, when dry, in the afternoon, in his little coach which the Duchess of Ormond presented him with, and often times in the forenoon; nor was the severity of the winter's cold a pretence for his staying within. The horses, which were no larger than a good mastiff, were under the guidance of Dicky Drury, his coachman. . . ."

The young Duke is brought back to Camden House, and the great Dr. Radcliffe is called in, who prescribes liberal doses of "Jesuit's powder now called bark," and frequent blisterings. He has a new nurse, Mrs. Atkinson, who is soon known as "Atty." The siege of Namur and the war in Flanders now come within the range of practical politics. The child-prince, aided by his preceptor, Mr. Prat, takes part in the drilling of a troop of Kensington boys in paper caps armed with wood swords, and the laying out of mimic fortifications.\* He writes to his uncle: "DEAR KING,—

\* A hundred and fifty years later the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres indulged themselves in similiar amusements at Claremont. The forts erected by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh at Osborne during the Crimean War were probably more serious undertakings. See p. 303.

## The *Good Hope* and its Owner

You shall have both my companies with you in Flanders."

Notwithstanding the frequent blisterings he is able to learn dancing from Monsieur Gory, a rich old French *maitre de danse* to whom he takes a great liking. We are told that "His breakfasts and suppers were provided by his day nurses . . . for breakfast, milk porridge and a piece of bread and butter ; for supper, water gruel, with currants, or veal and chicken broth with barley boiled therein." Frugal fare indeed for the heir to the throne. When five years old "A fancy took him that he would have a real ship with masts and rigging made, to be in his presence as a model. He told my Lord [Lord Berkeley] he would shortly have such an one ; and he made me bespeak it at his toy shop in Canon Street. My Lord told him he was very glad he gave his mind to such warlike exercises. He looked up in my Lord's face, and said, 'My Lord you are very old !' which Mrs. Duraine reproved him for ; 'I mean my Lord to be out so late at night,' which made his Lordship smile."

The attention of all England is directed to the Siege of Namur in which King William was taking an active part. A gazette is drawn up at Camden House. "Arrived safe in the Downs, off Kensington Main, the ship called the *Good Hope*, Prince William Master, whom God preserve ; she is a full-rigged ship, built in Canon Street Row, in a creek bordering upon the Port of London, from which she was launched, by order and under the direction, of Jenkin Lewis, Surveyor-General and Engineer to his Royal Highness Prince William, Duke of Gloucester." So proud was the Duke of his ship, that he would often make the boys climb up the masts. "Lewis," said he, "when we are

## The Boyhood of a Great King

at sea I will cannonade my enemies, and then lie by; so make them believe they may board us. I will send a boy up the top masts, to let fall from thence a bag of pease, that when the enemy comes to board us, they will fall down by means of the pease and I and my men will rush from the corners of the ships and cut them to pieces." When news was brought of Namur's surrendering to the allies (which happened on August 4; the fort and castle on the 22nd) the Duke was very joyous, and ordered his guns should be fired six times round.

The attention of Prince William is now turned to more serious things. Mr. Prat begins to teach him mathematics, Latin, and "the use of the globe," wisely tempered by lessons in boxing and fencing. In January 1696, King William makes his nephew a Knight of the Garter, but even this dignity does not diminish his love of soldiering. In order to satisfy his martial ardour the words of command were set to music by Mr. John Church of the King's Chapel :

"Hark ! Hark ! the hostile drum alarms  
Let ours too, beat and call to arms !  
Prepare, my boys, to meet the foe  
Let ev'ry breast with valour glow ! "

"Lewis," said he one day, "when I go to conquer France, I will burn all my shipping, that my men may not desert me by coming back." In 1696 addresses were sent to the King. The Prince's address was as follows : "I, your Majesty's most dutiful subject, had rather lose my life in your Majesty's cause than in any man's else; and I hope it will not be long ere you conquer France. Gloster." All his boy followers were required to sign the following pledge devised by him : "We, your Majesty's dutiful subjects,



## A Childless Queen

will stand by you as long as we have a drop of blood."

He is now the solitary survivor of the seventeen children of the Princess Anne and her Danish husband Prince George. In 1698 he is in his ninth year, and Dr. Gilbert Burnet, bishop, biographer, statesman, and politician, is appointed his Preceptor, and begins to teach him theology, Greek, and Roman History. He is never tired of reading "Plutarch's Lives." The King ordered "five of his chief Ministers to come once a quarter and examine the progress he made ; they seemed amazed both at his knowledge and the good understanding that appeared in him."

He was not, however, destined either to see the beginning of the eighteenth century or to become Prince of Wales, a dignity for which he always longed. On July 29, 1700, the Princess Anne, mother of so many children, became childless. A few days later the leader of the Kensington troop of boy-soldiers was laid to rest in King Henry the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster.

The bringing up of George I. (born just two months before the Restoration of Charles II.) was as might reasonably be expected, influenced by the clear and lively intellect of his mother the Electress Sophia of Hanover, youngest daughter of Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, and daughter of James I., whose life-long ambition was to become (if only for one day) Queen of England. The aged Electress Sophia, like the youthful Duke of Gloucester, was destined to disappointment. She predeceased her "well-beloved cousin" Queen Anne, by exactly seven weeks. Although George I. knew comparatively speaking, very little English, he was well acquainted with the languages and literature

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of Holland, Germany, France, and Italy. He was a fair musician although like his son and successor, he had no great fondness for either "bainting" or "boetry." George II. was, like his father (who by the way, was never Prince of Wales), carefully educated under the vigilant eye of the clever and energetic Electress Sophia. In 1705 Queen Anne bestowed on him, as presumptive heir to the throne, a variety of English honours and titles, including that of Marquis and Duke of Cambridge. He was just thirty-one when declared Prince of Wales at his father's first Council held on September 22, 1714. He was so created by letters patent issued five days later. On February 12, 1715, he took the necessary oaths as Duke of Rothesay. On June 12, 1727, he became King of England. As his eldest son, Frederick Prince of Wales, never lived to succeed to the throne, the question of his early training is not a matter of supreme moment. His natural gifts were probably greater than those of his father, to whom at any rate it must be accounted for righteousness that he possessed a marvellous memory, indulged a passion for genealogy, founded the University of Göttingen, and patronised in turn both Handel and Heidegger.

Frederick, the eldest son of George II., was born in 1707, while his grandmother the Electress Sophia still lived and hoped to become Queen of England. His grandfather made him Duke of Gloucester in 1717, and on his father's accession he was created Duke of Edinburgh. In the previous year Lady Mary Wortley Montagu wrote enthusiastically of his "grace and charms." It was intended that he should espouse Sophia Dorothea Wilhelmina, Princess Royal of Prussia, while his sister was the destined bride of her brother Frederick the Great.

## Liliputian Soldiers

He never came to England till 1728, and was created Prince of Wales in the following January. He was essentially a *dilettante* in an age of dilettantism. Known to his familiars as "Prince Titi," he composed two songs and supported Buononcini against Handel. His father and mother cordially hated him, but he scarcely merited the well-known rhyme belittling his memory. He died on March 20, 1751, from the effects of an abscess caused by either a cricket or tennis ball, while Desnoyers the dancing-master played the violin by his bedside. He was buried three weeks later at Westminster "without either organ or anthem."

George, the eldest son of Frederick Prince of Wales, and afterwards the third King bearing that name, was born on June 4, 1738. On the principle enunciated a century later by Baron Stockmar, that a man's education begins "in the first year of his life," it is interesting to note that "on the first anniversary of the birthday of the infant heir presumptive, there was a great concourse of nobility and gentry at Norfolk House, to congratulate their Royal Highnesses, accompanied with a whimsical exhibition of sixty youths, all under twelve years of age, sons of eminent citizens, who had formed themselves into a Liliputian company of foot-soldiers, in proper military clothing." ". . . In the drawing-room they were received by their newly elected Colonel, Prince George, who was adorned with a hat and feathers; after which they were permitted to kiss his hand, as well as that of the new-born Edward and the Princess Augusta."

On August 1, 1740 he was present at a masque performed at Cliefden with Quin (his future instructor in elocution) and the charming Kitty Clive in the principal *roles*, with fireworks by

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the learned Dr. Desaguliers as an additional attraction. At the age of six a precedent was created by the appointment of Dr. Francis Ayscough, afterwards Bishop of Bristol to the post of Preceptor. Almost at the same time he commenced to learn drawing from Goupy, fencing and small sword exercise from Redman and the art of oratory from Quin. When he was nine Addison's *Cato* was performed in Leicester Square, with the following cast :

PORTIUS . . . . .	Prince George.
JUBA . . . . .	Prince Edward.
CATO . . . . .	Master Nugent.
SEMPRONIUS . . . . .	Master Evelyn.
LUCIUS . . . . .	Master Montagu.
DECIUS . . . . .	Lord Milsington.
SYPHAX . . . . .	Lord North's son.
MARCUS . . . . .	Master Madden.
MARCIA . . . . .	Princess Augusta.
LUCIA . . . . .	Princess Elizabeth.

The prologue spoken by Prince George began :

“To speak with freedom, dignity, and ease,  
To learn these arts, which may hereafter please  
Wise authors say—let youth in earliest age  
Rehearse the poet's labours on the stage.”

And a little later came the lines :

“Liberty, oh name for ever dear !  
Know, 'tis the first great lesson I was taught.  
What, though a boy ! it may with pride be said,  
A boy in England born, in England bred ;  
Where freedom well becomes the earliest state,  
For there the love of liberty's innate.”

On June 4, 1750, Prince George gave a silver cup to be competed for by the London watermen. The date has been closely associated with the history of the Thames for over a century and a half. It is still a day held sacred by all Etonians. His father

## Treason in the School-room

died on March 20 following, and on April 22, 1752, Prince George became Prince of Wales by letters patent. From that time to the date of his accession eight years later, the completion of his education afforded abundant matter for party warfare. The formation of his ideas was regarded as a sort of shuttlecock for the battledores of Whig and Tory partisans. In 1752 Lord Harcourt and Mr. Stone held respectively the positions of Governor and Sub-Governor. They were succeeded by the Earl of Waldegrave and Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Peterborough. High treason was in the air! The fifteen-year-old lad had been allowed to read such dangerous works as Echard's translation of "The Revolutions of the House of Stuart," by Father Orleans, Ramsey's "Travels of Cyrus," Sir Robert Filmer's "Patriarch," and Père Perefex's "History of Henry IV." The Constitution was seriously threatened! The last of the numerous officials entrusted with the formation of the mind of George III. were Dr. Hayter, Preceptor, and Mr. Scott, sub-Preceptor. The results achieved were scarcely commensurate with the pains taken. During the whole of the King's reign his narrowness of view and dogged obstinacy were often only too apparent. He knew something of everything, but nothing thoroughly. His acquaintance with Latin and Greek was only superficial. He wrote English, French, and German fairly well, and could understand Italian. He dabbled with music, mechanics, and even printing. He loved poetry, but used to say that Shakespeare wrote sad stuff. Possibly he preferred the birthday odes of Cibber, Whitehead, Wharton, and Pye sung before him on his own birthdays and those of the Queen. As his family increased these performances became more

## The Boyhood of a Great King

frequent, and the strain on the inventive faculty of the laureates greater. He patronised painting liberally, but in his heart he preferred Benjamin West to Joshua Reynolds.

The birth of the fourth and least worthy of the four Georges has already been spoken of.\* He was five days later invested (at least in theory) "by cap, coronet, verge, and ring" with the title described by the most indulgent of his many biographers as "one of the trophies of the conquest of Llewellyn." The ceremony could hardly have proved as severe a trial of his physical energies, for he was inoculated the same day. In his third year, on St. David's Day, 1765, he received his first deputation and made his first speech. "He thanked them for their mark of duty to the King, and wished prosperity to the Charity."

At Christmas he was duly invested with the order of the Garter. His brother Frederick was the chosen companion of his studies. They never quarrelled until the Duke of York as Commander-in-Chief refused a military command to his brother the Prince of Wales. If there is safety in the number of instructors, Prince George should certainly have been the best educated man of his time. Lord Holderness, Lord Bruce, and the Duke of Montagu were in turn his governors, while during his childhood the post of governess was filled by Lady Charlotte Finch, who was Commander-in-Chief of a perfect retinue of nurses. Amongst his Preceptors was an Archbishop (Dr. Markham), a Bishop (Dr. Hurd), and a Dean of Christchurch, who lived to decline the Irish Primacy (Dr. Cyril Jackson), and Mr. Arnald or Arnold, a clergyman who had wrested the Senior Wranglership from Lord Ellenborough's

\* See Preface, p. 24.

## The Bishop-Tutors of Bower Lodge

brother Dr. Law, who could not be consoled for the disappointment even when Bishop of Brechin. The Bower Lodge at Kew was the scene of a comprehensive system of education which ranged from classics, modern languages, music, and elocution, to orthography, drawing, and practical husbandry. Both brothers developed in due course a pretty taste for Tacitus,\* and the Prince was reputed to play the violoncello better than his master,† and possess a finer bass voice than half the Italian singers at the King's Theatre or the Pantheon. Undeniably his handwriting in 1775 would have done credit to a Crocker or a Bickham. Of the numerous minor teachers who had a finger in the educational pie in process of confection at the Bower Lodge mention is occasionally made of M. de Sulzar and Mr. Myers, but one hears much more frequently of Leonard Smelt the friend and correspondent of Fanny Burney and Elizabeth Montagu, a veritable star in the Blue stocking firmament. Smelt, who had fought at Dettingen and Fontenoy, was just fifty when Lord Holderness introduced him to George III. in 1771. He remained at the Bower Lodge for ten years. Very curious indeed is the following letter addressed in November, 1769, to her six-year-old charge, the Duke of York, by Lady Charlotte Finch :

LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH *to* H.R.H. FREDERICK  
DUKE OF YORK.

LYONS, Nov. 7, 1769.

"SIR,—I have been very impatient to arrive at Lyons that I might have the Honour and Happiness of writing to your Royal Highness, as it is one of the greatest Indulgences I can have whilst I am

\* See Preface, pp. 6 and 7.

† Crosdil.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

debarr'd that of seeing you daily. [Here follows several pages of not unamusing description of the journey from Paris to Lyons.] I should be very happy to find myself so much advanced in my Journey, if that Thought did not at the same time remind me that I am already about six hundred miles distant from your Royal Highness, but if I can but flatter myself that you think one hundredth part so often of me, as I do of all my sweet little Royal Charges I will feast upon that idea until I return, as I am sure no distance can diminish my Zeal and Affection and will hope I shall find myself just where I was in those dear little Tender Hearts that shed Tears at our parting, the Remembrance of which I shall cherish as long as I live [then another page of description of the boat called a 'diligence' hired by Lord Winchelsea for the journey down the Rhone to Avignon]. As soon as I arrive at Nice which I believe will be about the 21st of this month I shall do myself the honour of writing to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and giving him an account of our voyage thither.

"I have the honer to subscribe myself,

"Your Royal Highness's

"Most dutiful and

"Most obedient servant,

"(sd.) CHARLOTTE FINCH."

Still more strange is the epistle of Mr. Leonard Smelt to his pupil of ten :

"RUSHY HALL, *October 15, 1773.*

"I hope your Royal Highness will believe that I have a heart sensible of the honor you do me in being so much interested in the health of my Relations—after many days of despair there is at present



## Mr. Smelt the Polite Letter-writer

a glimmering of hope for my Brother-in-Law, but tho' his friends have so ardently wished his recovery he himself hath been perfectly resigned and grateful that he hath lived to see his children such as he wished them to be.

"Mrs. Smelt (whatever Mr. Jackson or M. de Salgas may have thought upon the occasion) hath most assuredly been happy whenever she hath been honoured with a look of those lively eyes over the half shutters. If my Myers hath succeeded with your Royal Highness as well as he had done with the Prince of Wales He will have great reason to boast of his performances, and the Lady who is to be honoured with their possession will be most truly happy. When your Royal Highness is pleased to assure me that you love me, you are not aware how much you may awaken a pride in me which may not so easily be conquer'd, as I have nothing so much at heart as to deserve the approbation and if I may be allowed to say so the affection of your Royal Highnesses, and as I can safely promise for myself that I never shall seek to obtain it, but by the zeal of my endeavours to strengthen the only foundation for your Royal Highnesses' permanent happiness, so little as my part may be in this, yet I shall from this assurance expect that you will reward *en Prince* and honor me with a proportion of your affection rather suited to your greatness than my merits.

"Your Royal Highness is pleased to desire that you may write to me again. Is it usual, Sir, to ask leave to confer the most pleasing honours, for you cannot doubt my receiving it as such.

"I have troubled the Prince of Wales with so long a letter that I must entreat your Royal Highness to lend Him a little of your patience to supply the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

demand there will be for it. But that I may not wholly exhaust it, for perhaps it is not one of your Royal Highness's misfortunes to have too much, I shall only beg leave to add that if I may judge of the progress both your Royal Highnesses have made in your other studies by that in your writing my expectations can scarcely be raised too high; in this hope permit me to assure your Royal Highness of the perfect respect with which I am

“Your Royal Highness's

“most obedient

“and dutiful servant,

“LEONARD SMELT.”

It is not surprising that the upbringing of George IV. and his brother Frederick, Duke of York and Bishop of Osnabrück ended in dire failure. From first to last it was sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind. At the Bower Lodge there was little or none of that domestic environment which entered so largely into the shaping of the character of him who is the immediate subject of this volume. In the royal nurseries and school-rooms of 1841-1850 there was a healthy atmosphere of simplicity, truthfulness and sincerity. Imagine for one moment Dowager Lady Lyttelton or Mr. Birch writing such letters to their young charges as that of “the elegant Mr. Leonard Smelt,” or even that of Lady Charlotte Finch. The Bishops at Bower Lodge may have occasionally had recourse to a Spartan discipline, but the minor teachers never tired of flattering their pupils and gratifying their vanity. Each succeeding “Governor” was imbued with a strong political bias. They were all Tories of the obsolete type, holding that the divine right of Kings was an article of faith, and teaching the Prince of Wales

## The Spoiling of a Future King

to regard it as such. The foreign prejudices of the Queen were as harmful as the political bias of the King. There was no wholesome mixing with the outside world at the Bower Lodge. Even the most partial of Court historiographers is compelled to admit "that a system of education was pursued in regard to the young Princes something less liberal than ought to have been adopted towards the sons of the sovereign of a great and a free people."

As a matter of fact, neither George IV. nor his brother ever had a fair chance. The apotheosis of all the fine letter-writing, Ciceronian orations and 'cello playing, came with the separate establishment of January 1, 1781, the perfidy of "Florizel" to "Perdita," and the secret marriage with Mrs. Fitzherbert. It ended in what can only be described as a panorama of disgrace. George IV. utterly destroyed the personality of the sovereign as an element of both home and foreign politics, and a feature in the social life of the Empire. Not only did Queen Victoria restore it during her long and glorious reign, but by the upbringing of her children paved the way for those further developments of useful personal influence both at home and abroad which have characterised the first years of the reign of a great King.

## CHAPTER II

### THE UPBRINGING OF TWO HEIRESSSES TO THE BRITISH THRONE

[PRINCESS CHARLOTTE, 1796-1817. PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1819-1837.]

NEVER were the energies of the poet Pye and his unofficial imitators both great and small, more severely taxed than at the commencement of 1796. In his inevitable New Year's Day Ode (dealing principally with the recent attempt on the King's life—an event which amply justified the apposition of the phrases "Patriot's breast" and "Hell's behest") the Laureate had foreshadowed the coming event which would obviate the necessity of the nation falling back on the descendants of Owen Tudor, Llewellyn, or the De Burgos :

"O may thy smiles, blest infant, prove  
Omens of concord and of love,  
Bid the loud strains of martial triumph cease  
And tune to soften mood the warbling seal of peace."

Exactly a week later Princess Charlotte was born at Carlton House. We are assured that "the anxiety of the Royal Father (the use of capitals was more liberally indulged in in those days than at present) was inexpressible. His Royal Highness, on the preceding evening, had dined with the late Mr. Macnamara at Streatham, to meet a convivial party, among whom were the late Duke of Bedford and Lord Thurlow, whose society, it is well known, had much attrac-

## Mr. Pye and his Birthday Ode

tion for him ; yet he quitted the festive board at an earlier hour than he had ever been known to do, so feelingly alive was he to his promised hopes, and to the welfare of his Royal Partner." Mr. Pye was an indifferent poet, but he proved a still worse prophet. Smiles, concord and peace played a very small part in the future life of either mother or daughter. The deception and double dealing at which the Prince of Wales was an adept was never more forcibly illustrated than at the realisation of the "promised hopes." He was just then making a pretence at retrenchment, so when the civic authorities desired to offer him their felicitations, the Remembrancer was informed that "being under necessity of dismissing his establishment, he was unable to receive those congratulatory compliments in a manner suitable to his rank, and with the respect due to the capital of the empire ; but at the same time he expressed his great regret in not having it in his power to show a proper regard for the good wishes of the City of London towards himself and the Princess of Wales." Such periods as these were eminently worthy of Mr. Leonard Smelt, whose correspondence reminds one strangely of the Pecksniff of half a century later. But the Royal Family could not be put off so easily. They insisted on coming to the christening on February 11, when the King and Queen and the Duke and Duchess of York (the former the boon companion of his brother's early escapades—the youth in the buff coat of Mrs. Robinson's memoirs) were to be sponsors. They duly arrived along with the whole of the royal Princesses, but there was nothing for them but a plain joint and trimmings—"two courses and a dessert." Queen Charlotte held the child in her arms and gave her her own

## The Boyhood of a Great King

name; the Archbishop of Canterbury performed the ceremony with proper solemnity, and when it was over there was the usual distribution of cake and caudle, but "in a proportion indicative of the promised reforms." Before another year had passed by the futile playing at economy, which deceived nobody, was given up; the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales was declared to be final and irrevocable, and the infant Princess, the subject of Pye's poetic platitudes about peace, smiles, love, and concord, was at Shrewsbury House, under the care of the Dowager Lady Elgin and Miss Garth. Mr. Pye, however, erred in good company as far as his roseate forecast is concerned. His effusion in "Laureated Leaves" is immediately preceded by the ode in honour of the ill-starred marriage entitled "To Hymen," written by Dr. Clarke, and set to music by the great Haydn:

" Oh long may rosy finger'd morn  
Bestrew their paths with radiant flowers  
From latent snake or lurking thorn  
Free as Flora's fav'rite bowers "

and so on through a dozen verses of rhyming inanities. It is not surprising that one searched in vain for "To Hymen," amongst the published works of the illustrious composer.

Notwithstanding the manifold disadvantages inherent in the situation created by the complete estrangement of her parents, the Princess Charlotte proved far more easily amenable to the influence of her numerous teachers than one might have imagined. She was essentially a creature of impulse, and the total lack of parental control in her upbringing accounts for many of her faults in character. At one moment we hear of her making shrewd remarks on the achievements of Queen Elizabeth

## The Precocity of Princess Charlotte

about whom she delighted to read ; at another she is asking on bended knee the blessing of Bishop Porteous because she is coming to live in his diocese, while a little later she enjoys with undisguised and even boisterous merriment the “bumping” of her matronly governess, Lady de Clifford, in a pony cart over the ploughed fields at Bognor. Bishop Fisher (with whose Garter badge Queen Victoria played twenty years later, and whom “Sarah Tytler” mixes up hopelessly with Bishop Davys) did his utmost to make his pupil a good woman as well as a well-informed one, but nothing could atone for the lack of that maternal solicitude and affection which proved so invaluable to Queen Victoria. There is no evidence to show that the “First Gentleman in Europe” ever troubled himself an iota about the actual education of his daughter. His one idea was to prevent her falling under the domination of her mother. He was never so happy as at Brighton, where he could forget all about wife, daughter, and debts, while enjoying a series of gorgeous *fêtes*, and listening to the strains of such deplorable balderdash and unblushing perversion of the truth as :

“ When Jove’s immortal power  
On Britons deigned to shower  
Freedom sublime,  
Prince George by high decree  
On earth was form’d to be,  
Guardian of Liberty,  
Sacred, divine.  
Britons, your voices raise,  
In thanks and songs of praise  
The world convince ;  
True freedom here abounds,  
Virtue the throne surrounds  
Long live the Prince.”

If Lord Houghton is right as to George IV.’s

## The Boyhood of a Great King

unfavourable estimate of his daughter as a possible sovereign, he was himself greatly to blame for the short-comings of her early training. He was too much overcome with grief to attend her funeral, but he found time to reassure the unfortunate Sir Richard Croft, and a carefully sealed letter recently changed hands for a few shillings in which the Prince Regent congratulated Sir Isaac Heard on "the perfect style" in which he had proclaimed the dead Princess' titles at the conclusion of her obsequies.

It is a relief to turn, by way of contrast, from this sad picture of unfulfilled promise and wasted effort to the happy girlhood of the then unborn cousin who, within twenty years of the death of Princess Charlotte, was called upon to fill the throne which should have been hers. The essential differences in the upbringing of the two Princesses of the House of Hanover, who were in turn described as "heiresses of England" during the first forty years of the nineteenth century, are reflected to a very great extent in the caricatures, popular literature, and street songs of the epoch in which they lived. There was little or nothing in common as far as their respective surroundings were concerned. As has already been pointed out nothing could have been more unfavourable to the formation of the *morale* of the Princess Charlotte than the wanton profligacy of Carlton House and the Brighton Pavilion, and the tawdry untidiness and gossipy tittle-tattle which distinguished the various suburban residences of the deserted mother, whose intimate associates were, for the most part, either undesirables or nonentities. Perhaps it was fortunate that her early death spared the Princess Charlotte the latest and saddest phases of her mother's chequered career. A happy, contented, and peaceful infancy such as the



## A Striking Contrast

future Queen Victoria passed in those pleasant rooms overlooking the shady gardens of Kensington Palace, could never for a moment have been hoped for in the case of her less fortunate cousin, who was compelled by force of circumstance to grow up from babyhood in an atmosphere of chronic chicanery and perpetual intrigue. Not only was she the standing object of dispute and wrangle between her heartless father and his hard-living, hard-drinking associates on the one hand, and her tactless mother and her interested, over-zealous partisans on the other, but her governors and governesses were for ever quarrelling amongst themselves. The well-meaning old King, as long as a ray of intelligence remained to him had a sneaking regard for his unhappy niece whose life had been ruined by the faults and follies of his eldest son. He did his best to see that his grand-daughter (who used to play to him when overwhelmed by mental and physical blindness) was brought up in as satisfactory a manner as his own lights (limited at the best of times) permitted him to devise. To Queen Charlotte, Caroline of Brunswick was anathema from the very first. Her personal sympathy for the solitary girl who bore her own name was scant indeed. As long as he was able the King wrote long and touching letters to the Princess of Wales in French, imploring her to be patient and, above all, to avoid giving cause of offence, but no sooner did the Queen get a free hand than, at the bidding of her favourite but often faithless son, she peremptorily excluded his consort from her drawing-rooms and other public assemblies, and that at a time when the presence of the Allied Sovereigns made the affront doubly hard to bear. On the other hand, there was for many years a frequent exchange of visits and friendly letters

## The Boyhood of a Great King

between the younger Princesses of the royal family and their child-niece. The caricaturists who never spared George the Magnificent any more than they did the Corsican Ogre, at once ranged themselves on the side of the daughter, who probably lived in perfect unconsciousness of pictures representing her as a bone of contention between her father and mother, or kneeling before an altar at the bidding of Mrs. Fitzherbert. There is a still better-known print in which the "legal wife" (as Mr. Wilkins, her latest and ablest biographer calls her) is depicted as an angel bearing the "heiress of England" heavenwards, crucifix in hand. Everything conspired to obstruct the development in the mind of the Princess Charlotte of that individuality of character and strength of purpose which distinguished the Princess Victoria long before the death of her uncle made her Queen of England. For this the simple home-life at Kensington and the motherly care of the Duchess of Kent were mainly responsible. Possibly the marked difference between the temperament of the two mothers had something to do with the almost total lack of resemblance between their children.

The story of the early years of Queen Victoria is doubtless familiar to the great majority of the readers of this volume. Not only does it occupy the first chapters of the various biographies already alluded to, but it formed a prominent feature in the lighter literature brought into existence, first by the jubilee celebration of 1887, and then by that of the second solemnity of ten years later.\* The

\* An excellent specimen of this is the double number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* for July 1897, edited by Mr. Clement Shorter. It deals most picturesquely with every period of the late Queen's life, and should be carefully preserved by those who are fortunate enough to possess a copy.

## Queen Victoria and her Teachers

narrative of the Princess Victoria's life from her birth at Kensington Palace down to the eventful morning little more than eighteen years later when the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Conyngham arrived there at an abnormally early hour and demanded audience of "the Queen," need only be further alluded to in relation to the light which it frequently throws on "the boyhood of a great King," to which it was the natural prelude. The girlhood of Queen Victoria, as far as companions of her own age are concerned, may be fairly described as a solitary one, which contrasts very forcibly with the infancy of her children, who grew up in the happy enjoyment of each other's society. There was, therefore, little resemblance between the modest nursery at Kensington and those over which our late revered Queen presided as wife and mother. Moreover, there was no master-mind like that of the Prince Consort to assist the Duchess of Kent in discharging those duties which it was afterwards confessed she discharged most admirably. Politics undoubtedly entered very largely into the early training of George III. and that of his sons. High Toryism was the order of the day at Bower Lodge, Kew, but notwithstanding the excellent principles carefully impressed on him by Bishop Hurd, his eldest pupil went over to the Opposition, and one of the earliest letters of the Princess Charlotte is that which accompanied the gift of a bust of Charles James Fox to Lady Albemarle. The Duke of Kent's mild form of Whiggism was certainly far less objectionable than the ultra-Protestant Toryism of his brother Ernest, but the traditions of the political faith of the former were said to be cherished by his widow, if not actually transmitted to his daughter. Politics played no part whatever in the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

boyhood of King Edward VII. Absolute political impartiality and indifference on the part of the sovereigns was one of Prince Albert's golden maxims, which is bearing fruit now, and will continue to do so for all time. The poetasters of 1796 and the first decade of the nineteenth century had vanished. Flattery in high places had gone out of fashion before 1837 and birthday odes were at a discount. Nevertheless a broadside has come down to us containing a set of indifferent verses beginning with the lines :

“ Affection's kind domestic joys we view  
In our late William's short benignant reign,  
Oh ! may our Queen her grandsire's steps pursue ;  
And love and glory as reward obtain.”

At the age of four months the future Queen attended a review in her father's carriage. It is not recorded that she attempted a speech on the lines of that which the infant Prince of Wales is supposed to have addressed over fifty years before to the astonished delegates of the Society of Ancient Britons. It was shortly after this that the Duke of Kent wrote from Sidmouth : “ My little girl thrives under the influence of a Devonshire climate, and is, I am delighted to say, strong and healthy ; too healthy, I fear, in the opinion of some members of my family by whom she is regarded as an intruder.” These ominous words afford a key to the earliest caricatures in which the child-face of the Princess Victoria appears. In the first of them all, however, “ H. B.” depicts her as a sort of glorified Boy Bishop, wearing portentous lawn sleeves and sitting behind an enormous desk on an episcopal throne. It seems that a proposal had been made to utilise a portion of the revenues of the see of Derry for the upbringing of the “ Heiress of England.” The rest are directed at the universally disliked and

## “H. B.” and the Duke of Cumberland

mistrusted Ernest Duke of Cumberland, whose desire to become ruler of England was as intense as that once entertained by his ancestress the Electress Sophia. With both it was the dream of a lifetime destined never to be realised. In “H. B.’s” various productions Princess Victoria was always the victim and Duke Ernest the villain of the piece. Even her caricaturists dealt gently and kindly with the girl pronounced charming on all hands. Of those executed before her marriage, there are few prettier portraits of Queen Victoria than “H. B.’s” sketch of her Majesty in one of the unbecoming bonnets of the period riding between Lord Melbourne and Sir Robert Peel.

The chief episodes connected with the nursery-life of the late Queen Victoria are, by this time, familiar to the majority of the subjects of the “Great King.” We all know the story of the unexpected death of her apparently robust and long-lived father while she was still in arms, and the return of her widowed mother to the picturesque palace which had witnessed her daughter’s birth. Her very dolls and dolls’-houses have afforded subject-matter for a book. The Queen’s first *bon-mot* about the cornelians; her rides in Kensington Gardens; her desire to clean the windows as a pastime; her frank exchange of child-like confidences with the “Infant Lyra;” \* the praiseworthy patience of Baroness Lehzen; the appearance of the Reverend George Davys on the scene in her fifth year; the love she bore her half-sister the Princess Feodore, and her old nurse Mrs. Brock (“Boppy”); her wish to please her uncle King George by going to Windsor on the donkey given her

\* One of the musical prodigies of the period, who was “commanded” to play the harp at Kensington Palace before the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

by her uncle the Duke of York; her visits to "Uncle Leopold" still at Claremont, but very soon to become King of the Belgians; her appearance at the ball given in honour of the child Queen of Portugal, and a dozen other anecdotes of the *ben' trovato* type have been recounted too often to justify more than the most passing allusion. Sir Walter Scott saw mother and daughter face to face in Royal Kensington, and records his deliberate opinion that "this lady is educated with much care, and is watched so closely that no busy maid has a moment to whisper, 'You are heir of England.'" This is naturally followed by the legend of Baroness Lehzen, in which the genealogical tree surreptitiously inserted in the history-book, and the words, "I will be good," form the chief ingredients. Dr. Davys, in that portion of his journal published for the first time by the Duke of Argyll, does ample justice to Miss Lehzen's disciplinary powers. On April 7, 1823, when teaching the Princess the alphabet, he writes: "Her management of the Princess is extremely good. She allows no indulgence of wrong disposition, but corrects everything like resistance, or a spirit of contradiction such as all children will indulge in if they can."

Two years later he tells us: "April 6, 1825. The Princess Victoria began to take lessons of a writing-master, Mr. Steward. I had previously, however, found it necessary, for the sake of fixing the attention of the Princess, to teach her to write, and she can already write on a slate short sentences." Before the death of George IV. (whom she pleased mightily by choosing the National Anthem for performance by his private band) she lost the companionship of the Princess Feodore, who, at the desire of Mr. Davys, had, along with the Baroness Lehzen, complacently stood up with her in class

## George IV.'s Last Birthday

form when she went through her lessons, and who now became the wife of Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg. Long—very long before this the Dowager Duchess of Coburg had written to the Duchess of Kent the ominous words: “The little fellow (Prince Albert) is the pendant of his pretty cousin.” If the childish days of Queen Victoria were dull, they were, at any rate, decorous and profitable. Even the sardonic Greville finds a kind word for “our little Victoria.” It was on the last birthday that George IV. ever spent on earth, when he was a helpless and fretful invalid, hardly able to write his name, and condemned by his doctors to die in a few months or weeks, he received from his winsome niece the little portrait of herself, bearing her signature, and now preserved amongst the art-treasures of the Windsor print-room. The dying King was deeply touched. Possibly he remembered the dead and gone Princess Charlotte, and all the misery which his own folly and selfishness had entailed upon others. The King of 1829–1830, it may be hoped, bore very little resemblance to the Prince of Wales of 1796, or the Prince Regent of 1814. “Little Victoria,” as the great diarist affectionately called her, had made good use of her time with Mr. Steward her writing-master, and Mr. Westall, the Royal Academician, who taught her drawing. Mr. J. B. Sale and Monsieur Lablache, Madame Bourdin, Monsieur Grandineau and Monsieur Barez, her instructors in singing, dancing, French and German all gave encouraging reports of progress. She had overcome the natural disinclination to work, which Dr. Davys was the first to detect, and began to tackle the difficulties of Latin and Greek with the energy and determination which she displayed nearly sixty years later when she

## The Boyhood of a Great King

learned to read and write Hindustani in a way which put some of her great Pro-consuls to shame.

Neither the Princess nor her mother attended the coronation of William IV., which the satirists insisted on calling a "half-crownation." Possibly the relations between Windsor and Kensington were not very cordial at first. The honest affection of Queen Adelaide for both mother and daughter paved the way to an entire change of feeling. Till the day of her death "great-aunt Adelaide"\* was one of Queen Victoria's firmest and most trusted friends. She was one of the earliest correspondents of the royal children in the "eighteen-forties," and played her part in the up-bringing of the great King. The appointment of the Duchess of Northumberland to the purely ornamental post of State Governess made no difference either in the tranquil home-life at Kensington or the excursions by sea and land now frequently indulged in by the Duchess of Kent, who was always accompanied by her daughter. The future Queen was now in her twelfth year, and in January, 1831, made her first appearance at the Covent Garden Pantomime, which she appears to have thoroughly enjoyed, as well as the farce of "A £100 Note," which preceded it. Probably the visit to Claremont shortly afterwards was the last paid there prior to "Uncle Leopold's" removal to Brussels and Laeken, where he was to win the honourable title of the "Juge de Paix de l'Europe." Even then coming events began to cast their shadows before. Prince Albert sent his "best remembrances to our dear cousin." At this juncture, 1831, Sir R. Holmes tells us that Earl Grey proposed to appoint Dr. John Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln, to the post of "preceptor" at

\* See n. 243.



## Tours by Sea and Land

Kensington. Although an ardent reformer he believed in the absolute necessity of some eminent church dignitary taking part in the up-bringing of royal children of either sex. The Duchess of Kent demurred, and the Princess was as disinclined to part with Dr. Davys as she had been loathe to lose "Boppy" six years before. A compromise was effected which ended in the worthy divine who taught Queen Victoria her letters becoming Dean of Chester and eventually Bishop of Peterborough. The writer of the *Times*' "Life of Queen Victoria" gives a very full account of her tour through the west of England in 1833. They left port on July 18, in the yacht *Emerald*, towed by the steamboat *Messenger*. On the 29th of that month they made a short stay at Weymouth passing the night at the Royal Hotel, where in the autumn of Trafalgar year\* King George had given a dinner and *fête* in honour of the twenty-second birthday of his favourite daughter Amelia—another Royal Princess soon to die "before her prime." From Weymouth they proceeded by road through Dorchester, Melbury, and Bridport to Lyme Regis, where, from the ancient "Cobb" on which James Duke of Monmouth stumbled when he landed there in 1685, on his way to Sedgmoor and Tower Hill, they embarked for Plymouth. On August 6 they were at Torquay, whence they posted right through Dorsetshire to Swanage, a distance of over a hundred miles. There the royal visitors tarried in an old-world hostelry, once a manor-house. Queen Victoria's powers of memory like those of King Edward VII., were phenomenal. When the Prince of Wales set out on his incognito walking-tour

\* See "The Three Dorset Captains at Trafalgar," by A. M. Broadley and R. G. Bartelot, p. 115. London: John Murray, 1906.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

two-and-twenty years later, she told him to be sure and see the room she occupied at Swanage.\* Before embarking for Norris Castle on the following morning, the ladies of Swanage presented the Princess Victoria with a straw bonnet "the growth, make, and trade of the place"—a circumstance which seems to have still further impressed the charms of this picturesque Dorset watering-place on her imagination.

In the following year the Laureate Robert Southey broke the silence which had hitherto been maintained in the ranks of the principal poets on the subject of the future Queen, although it was reserved for one of her own sex† to celebrate in verse some of the most touching incidents of the accession. There was nothing in Southey's lines on Princess Victoria which savoured of the long-since forgotten odes of his Georgian predecessors :

" When regal glory gems that brow,  
So humble, meek and gentle now,  
May England's haughty foeman bow  
And England's children brave  
The glory of their name avow  
The Lords of land and wave."

Heathen mythology entered no longer into our "Laureated Leaves." Now came another pleasant visit to Tunbridge Wells, followed by two tranquil months spent unostentatiously at St. Leonards. On July 30, 1835, Princess Victoria was confirmed in the old-fashioned Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace, where, before four more years had passed over her head, she was to be married. The visits she paid to Hatfield and Belvoir, Burghley and Holkham, and other "seats of the mighty" now need nothing more than a bare mention. They

\* See p. 329, *post*.

† Elizabeth Barrett Browning.



PORTRAIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE  
DUCHESS OF KENT



## The Coburg Cousins

doubtless assisted very largely in developing the good seed planted in the school-room at Kensington, so soon to be quitted for ever. In the following year [1836] the young Coburg Princes came to London—and Kensington. "Our aunt Kent," wrote Prince Albert to his friends at home, "is very kind to us and our cousin is also very amiable." Princess Victoria's letter to "Uncle Leopold," breathed the same frank enthusiasm. Possibly the far-seeing King of the Belgians and the "absolutely disinterested Stockmar" had something to do with this most opportune four weeks' sojourn of the Coburg brothers in the British metropolis. The early training of Prince Albert had been the subject of quite as much care and anxiety as that of his fair young English cousin. Neither the presence of the Princes nor the claims of society were allowed by Dean Davys to interrupt the even progress of his pupil's studies. The child who stumbled so hopelessly over the alphabet in 1823, is recorded on April 25, 1837, to be deep in the study of "'Hume,' 'Virgil,' 'Paradise Lost,' 'Rokeby,' 'Boswell's Life of Johnson,' 'Paley's Moral Philosophy,' President Jackson's 'Message to Congress,' a speech by Sir Robert Peel to the Glasgow University, and the 'Memoirs of Mrs. Lucy Hutchinson.'" A very different list of books than that which rumour ascribed to the tutors of George III. There is bad news from Windsor now. "On May 24," writes the Duke of Argyll,\* "the Princess celebrated her eighteenth birthday, and attained her legal majority. At seven o'clock in the morning she was attended at Kensington Palace by a band of seventy performers. She sat at an open window

\* "V.R.I. Queen Victoria. Her Life and Empire." London and New York : Harper & Brothers, 1902.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

during the concert, and asked that a song containing expressions complimentary to her mother might be repeated. All through the morning congratulatory visits were paid to the Duchess and her daughter, and numerous valuable presents arrived. The King sent a magnificent grand piano valued at two hundred guineas. In the evening a State ball took place at St. James's Palace, when the Queen for the first time took precedence of her mother, and occupied the chair of state. The King and Queen were absent owing to the serious condition of the former, who was now upon what proved to be his death bed. London was illuminated at night, and *fêtes* were held in many provincial towns. A notable incident was the visit of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, who proceeded in state to Kensington Palace to present the congratulations of the city. For many days afterwards addresses poured in from all parts of the Kingdom."

Within four brief weeks "The good old Sailor King" was dead, the faults of his youth forgotten and forgiven by those who loved him. He had done much to prepare for the good work shortly to be accomplished by the Princess whose up-bringing has been only briefly sketched, and the clever and handsome cousin whom she chose to share the responsibilities of her exalted position. On June 20, 1837, the Duke of Cumberland became King of Hanover, but his hopes of occupying the throne of England became from that day forth more and more remote. It was reserved for his niece not only to again make felt the influence of the sovereign as a factor in politics, but to superintend in person the education of him who now fills her place, and has already more than amply justified the appellation of a great King.

## CHAPTER III

### THE ACCESSION, CORONATION AND MARRIAGE OF QUEEN VICTORIA

SINCE the death of Queen Anne on August 1, 1714, in the same palace which by a strange coincidence, was the scene of the birth, girlhood, and the first announcement of the accession of Queen Victoria, "God save the King" had always been the chorus-line of the national anthem originally devised by one Doctor John Bull in honour of the first appearance of James I. in the City after the turmoil caused by the Gunpowder Plot had subsided. The different versions of the familiar song, some topical, and others political, throw an instructive light on the feelings of the people towards the throne and its occupants at different periods of our history. The compiler of "Laureated Leaves"\* has accumulated a unique collection of these quaint and instructive variations. In 1745 one portion of the community sang lustily :

" From France and Pretender  
Great Britain defend her ;  
Foes let them fall :  
From foreign slavery,  
Priests and their knavery  
God save us all,"

while the other chanted with equal vigour the lines current in 1685. Twelve years later the name of

\* See *ante*, pp. 23-24.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the gallant Hawke was on everybody's lips, and the verse :

“ Fleet ! spread thy canvas wings  
Thy swift and laurels bring  
From Gallia's shore ;  
And o'er the azure main  
Our wonted rights maintain,  
Whilst in the loudest strains  
Thy thunders roar.”

was added. 3

George III. succeeded his grandfather, and within a week the subjects of the youthful monarch were either shouting :

“ Let France invasions plot  
Tell her we value not  
French Gasconade ;  
George who commands the Sea  
Will let all Europe see  
Spite of her boasting, she  
Dares not invade.”

or,

“ God save great George our King  
Long live our Native King  
God save the King.

\* \* \* \*

Though our Good Monarch's gone  
His Grandson Mounts the Throne  
To whose just praise.  
Charge each Glass to the Brim  
While we, in raptures, sing  
To George our Native King  
With loud Huzzas.”

As time went on the spirit of the old song became more and more bellicose and maledictory. Defiance of foreign foes and American “rebels” is breathed in sonorous lines in which indifferent grammar struggled for supremacy with bad rhymes.

From the other side of the Atlantic came back the reply :



## Variations of the National Anthem

“ God save America  
Free from despotic sway  
Till time shall cease ;  
Hush'd be the din of arms  
Also fierce war's alarms,  
And follow in all her charms  
Heaven-born peace

\* \* \* \*

God save great Washington  
And Freedom's chosen son,  
Long to command.  
May ev'ry enemy  
Far from his presence fly,  
And be grim tyranny  
Bound by his hand.”

The Franco-American alliance becomes an accomplished fact, and the *Baltimore Advertiser* immediately adds the stanza :

“ Next in our song shall be  
Guardian of Liberty  
Louis the King.  
Tremble God of War  
Placed in Victorious Car  
Of France and Navarre,  
Louis the King.”

The Guardian of Liberty of 1778 died on the scaffold in 1793, and for many years the British Laureate is engaged in elaborating new verses in depreciation of Bonaparte, or in praise of the domestic virtues of Queen Charlotte. Of “ God save the Prince,” the air which found favour at Ranelagh, Vauxhall, the Pantheon and Brighton mention has already been made.\* Very different was the merciless lampoon which appeared on the Regent's accession to the throne in 1820. It would have been dangerous then to resuscitate the once popular verse :

\* See *ante*, p. 53.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“ May all the Royal line  
In every virtue shine  
Like George our King.  
And when to kindred skies  
His happy Spirit flies  
May other Georges rise  
Like George our King.”

On June 30, 1830, the *Times* comes out with a new and orthodox version as a tribute to the rollicking Sailor King, whose predecessor had been dead only four days. On the very day of the accession of the Princess Victoria the words of the now seven-year-old song, “politics,” “knavish tricks,” and all, are adapted to the altered state of affairs. For sixty-two years the Empire delighted “to sing with heart and voice” “God save the Queen.” An unofficial “variation” which appeared at the same time shows the high estimate already entertained of the character and capacity of the new Sovereign, perhaps even more forcibly than the oft-quoted verses of Mrs. Browning. It ran thus :

“GOD SAVE THE QUEEN (1837).

God save our gracious Queen !  
God save our noble Queen !  
God save the Queen !  
May she ever be  
Guardian of Liberty  
Church ! State ! and Equity !  
God save the Queen !

And may her people find  
Rich stores within her mind,  
Actions and thoughts refined :  
God save the Queen !  
Long may the Crown she wears  
Grace her through happy years  
Dispelling doubts and fears ;  
Long may she reign !”

## “Early Victorian” Days

After the Coronation one more verse was added :

“May all the nations round  
Join in the glorious sound  
*Our own* Victoria’s crown’d !  
God save the Queen ! ”

It is not proposed to tell the story of either the accession, the coronation, or the marriage of Queen Victoria, except so far as certain facts connected with them relate more or less directly to the nursery-life and early up-bringing of her children. The writer forbears from touching, except incidentally, on such attractive subjects as the development of gas, railways and steamships, of the electric telegraph and electric light or of the penny post and cheap literature. The accession of Queen Victoria will for all time be remembered as the starting-point of an epoch of progress in Science, Art and Literature. The grossness of the first part of the century was about to be replaced by the refinement of the last. The term “early Victorian” has now almost become one of depreciation and reproach. It was, however, in every respect preferable to “late Georgian,” if, indeed, the closing scenes of George IV.’s life left any mark whatever on the annals of England. Those who would care to study the life of Queen Victoria in 1837 and 1838, can do so in a very charming book\* published on the occasion of the Jubilee of 1887, dealing lightly with everything from the Wednesday balls then given at Almacks, down to the Gartantuan feasts at the Guildhall, and, in point of time, from the five-o’clock-in-the-morning interview of Archbishop Howley and Lord Conyngham at Kensington on June 20, 1837, down to the newly crowned Queen reverently receiving

\* “The First Year of a Silken Reign (1837-1838),” by A. W. Tuer and C. E. Fagan. London : The Leadenhall Press, 1887.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Sacrament at the altar of Westminster Abbey, from the hands of the same Dr. Howley on June 28, 1838. During the interval her Majesty had succeeded in winning the golden opinions of all classes of her subjects. Following the precedent set by George III. and Queen Charlotte, Queen Victoria went in state to dine with the Lord Mayor on November the 9th, 1837. The menu is bewildering both in its extent and variety. Messrs. Tuer and Fagan declare it to have possessed a Titanic character. It is evident that the traditions of the past were vanishing but slowly as far as civic gastronomy was concerned. East India, Malmsey, Madeira, Haut Sauterne, Frontignac, Hermitage, Blanc-tinto Madeira, Malvasia, Sillery champagne, Tokay and Parascelta all graced the royal table. Mr. William Lawson made a bold bid for immortality by presenting the Corporation with sherry one hundred and ten years old for the Queen's use. It is recorded that her Majesty drank to the Lord Mayor and to fourteen other persons. Fortunately the historian qualifies his statement by adding "at least she raised the glass to her lips." Ladies in the twentieth century will doubtless be grateful for the information that the Lady Mayoress [Mrs. afterwards Lady Cowan] was "dressed in green velvet, lined with white satin, trimmed with gold fringe and a border of Brussels lace. Her petticoat was of llama and gold, and her stomacher was of large opals and diamonds. On her neck was an Elizabethan ruff, and on her head a plume of feathers." One is reminded forcibly of the caricatures of the Empress Josephine current thirty years before. From an international point of view it is only just to add that "another lady who by her beauty and elegance attracted universal admiration,

## Queen Victoria as a Vocalist

was a Mrs. Magee, the only American lady in the assembly.

As one might very well expect both Art and Music were to play a part in the new reign, and later in the upbringing of the royal children. On August 17 (1837), the Court "went out of mourning for the day," so as to enable the Queen to give a Concert at Buckingham Palace in honour of the Duchess of Kent's birthday. The chroniclers of the events of the "First Year of a Silken Reign," tell us that "the vocalists were Madame Grisi and Madame Albertazzi, Signor Lablache and Signor Tambuxini, all of her Majesty's Italian Opera." A little later Stalberg was sent for, and before his departure from England was once more summoned to the palace, where, at a private party he was the sole performer, the Queen giving him five themes to work upon. The Queen herself possessed a pure soprano voice of considerable power, sweetness, and extent. Encouraged by the praises of Lablache she herself took part, later in the year, in a series of musical soirées which were given during the sojourn of the Court at the Brighton Pavilion, the walls of which had once re-echoed very different sounds.\*

In September "Uncle Leopold" and his second wife (Louise, daughter of Louis Philippe, King of the French) paid her Majesty a three weeks' visit at Windsor Castle. There can be no doubt that the question of the Queen's marriage was then fully discussed. The cousins had corresponded ever since the visit of the Coburg brothers to England in 1836. On June 26, Prince Albert had written a letter of congratulation to his "dearest cousin," full of good feeling, but possibly a little over serious: "Now you are Queen of the mightiest land in

\* See *ante*, p. 53.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Europe, in your hand lies the happiness of millions. May Heaven assist you and strengthen you with its strength in that high but difficult task! I hope that your reign may be long, happy, and glorious, and that your efforts may be rewarded by the thankfulness and love of your subjects.”\*

At first the Queen undoubtedly thought herself too young to marry, and that the realisation of her uncle's dream, although in no way disagreeable to her or contrary to her own inclinations, might be postponed for a season. It was eventually an increased sense of the responsibilities so forcibly pointed out by Prince Albert in the cousinly letter, brought about by the occurrence of certain domestic and political difficulties, which made the young Queen feel that she needed a strong arm to lean on, and a clear head and cool judgment. In the result she did what her nearest and dearest relatives (including her devoted mother) both hoped and desired, but, as fate willed it, she followed the dictates of her own heart and married a Prince who united in his character the highest ability with a conscientiousness and keen sense of duty rarely surpassed. It may be doubted if the public appreciation of the merits of the Prince Consort is even now as great as it deserves to be. As each biography of the statesmen and men of letters with whom he was more or less associated in public and private life makes its appearance, fresh light is invariably thrown on the splendid work he accomplished in his all-too-short career. We have yet much to learn of the influence he wielded for good, and of the part he took in the early training of at least seven of his children.

The education of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg

\* Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," vol. i., p. 25.

## Early Life of Prince Albert

and Gotha, like that of his eldest son, began "with the first day of his life." To understand many of the opinions enunciated by him in 1842 and 1843, when the whole world and his wife seemed anxious to busy itself about the upbringing of the Heir Apparent, one must read the whole of General Grey's admirable book,\* and the first portion of the not less valuable work of Sir Theodore Martin.† General Grey carries the story of Prince Albert's boyhood and youth from 1819 down to his marriage on February 10, 1840, and the birth of the Princess Royal in the month of November following. The vivid pictures which he draws of life at Rosenau and Reinhardtsbrunn; student days at Bonn and Brussels and tours in Germany, Switzerland, and North Italy are supplemented by letters of supreme interest, the recollections of one of his tutors, and the reminiscences of Count Arthur Mensdorff, at once the relative of both Queen Victoria and the husband she mourned for forty years. In a letter to the former written in March 1863, Count Mensdorff tells her "Albert as a child was of a mild and benevolent disposition. It was only what he thought unjust or dishonest that could make him angry. Thus I recollect one day when we children . . . were playing at the Rosenau and some of us were to storm the old ruined tower on the side of the castle, which the others were to defend. One of us suggested that there was a place at the back by which we could get in without being seen, and thus capture it without difficulty. Albert declared that 'this would be most unbecoming in a Saxon Knight, who should always attack the enemy in front,' and so we fought for the tower so honestly

\* "The Early Years of the Prince Consort" (see *ante*).

† "Life of the Prince Consort" (see *ante*).

## The Boyhood of a Great King

and vigorously that Albert, by mistake, gave me a blow upon the nose, of which I still bear the mark. I need not say he was sorry for the wound he had given me. Albert was never noisy or wild. He was very fond of natural history and more serious studies, and many a happy hour we spent in the Ehrenburg (the Ducal Palace at Coburg), in a small room under the roof, arranging and dusting the collections our cousins had themselves made and kept there. . . . Albert thoroughly understood the *naïveté* of the Coburg national character, and he had the art of turning people's peculiarities into a source of fun, but he was never severe or ill-natured. . . . *Whilst still very young his heart was feelingly alive to the sufferings of the poor.* I saw him one day give a beggar something by stealth, when he told me not to speak of it 'for when you give to the poor,' he said, 'you must see that nobody knows of it.' He was always fond of shooting and fishing. I have a letter of our mutual grandmother dated March 1, 1831. She speaks of the cousins (Prince Ernest and Prince Albert) acting proverbs in her room: 'Albert as a quack, with a pigtail and paunch was too ridiculous. Ernest as a lady looked quite like your mother when she was a girl. He distributed the playbills. There was a good deal of fun and laughter.' In 1839 during a journey to Carlsbad he told in strict confidence that he was going to England to make your acquaintance, and that if you liked each other you were to be engaged. He spoke very seriously about the difficulties of the position he would occupy in England, but hoped dear Uncle Leopold would assist him with his advice. In one of dearest Albert's letters I found a passage most characteristic of his noble way of thinking. 'The poor soldiers,' he writes, 'always



## The Almanach de Gotha

do their duty in the most brilliant manner, but as soon as matters come again into the hands of politicians and diplomats, everything is again spoiled and confused.' How much these words convey. We again see the Saxon knight, who as a child declared that you must attack your enemy in front, who hates every crooked path; and, on the other hand, the noble heart which feels deeply the misfortune of a government not guided by reason and morality." One cannot help noticing the reflection, as it were, of all Count Mensdorff tells the widowed Queen, about Prince Albert, in all that one knows of the upbringing of his children.

It is not surprising to learn that Prince Albert was proud of his ancestry, although the satirists of the early "forties" were accustomed to make fun of the title of Duke of Saxony, with which Charles Greville also falls foul in his Memoirs. Anybody who wants to supplement the information given by General Grey as to the genealogy of the House of Coburg, has only to consult the "Almanach de Gotha," on the first page of which the Prince Consort's forbears figured as Dukes of Gotha from the commencement of its appearance in 1763 down to the Franco-German War.\* There may be read that wonderful family tree which begins with Wiltekind Duke of Saxony in the time of Charlemagne, and from whom sprang such famous Counts of Wettin and Margraves of Misnia as Conrad the Great, four Fredericks (the Serious, the Severe,

\* A complete set of the Gotha Almanack, known somewhat irreverently as the Diplomatic Bible, would be (if procurable) of enormous value. The suppressed issue of 1814 alone fetches from £12 to £20. In the edition of 1831 the complicated history of Dukes of Saxony and their descendants is dealt with at length. A beautiful portrait of Queen Victoria appears in it in 1838, and one of King Edward VII. in 1862, and again in 1903.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Valiant, and the Magnanimous), and finally Ernest the Pious, the more immediate ancestor of Duke Ernest and his brother Duke Albert, always described as belonging to the Ernestine branch of this illustrious family, whose arms Queen Victoria insisted on quartering with those of her children despite the opposition of Mr. Greville and the difficulties raised by her Ministers.\*

Prince Albert was only twenty when he came to England, returning to Coburg as the betrothed husband of the Queen of "the mightiest nation in Europe." The story of his brief wooing and his marriage at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on February 10, 1840, has been told and retold by far more competent historians.

The position of the youthful bridegroom was one of extraordinary difficulty, but he never for a moment shrank from the responsibilities it entailed upon him. As Sir Theodore Martin very ably puts it : "While renouncing every impulse of personal ambition he resolved to consecrate himself with the most absolute devotion to deepening, by the influence of his life and the example of his home, the hold of the Monarchy upon the affections of the People, and to making it a power which, amid the conflicting and often selfish passions of political strife and the tortuous subtleties of diplomacy, should have for its unswerving object to increase that people's welfare and to uphold the power and dignity of the Empire." . . . "He was fortunate," continues the same biographer, "in having by his side in Baron Stockmar a man specially fitted by nature and by experience to direct his course, and to assist and encourage him amid the difficulties by which it was surrounded. Nowhere in the records of

\* See *post*, p. 109.



THE PRINCE CONSORT IN 1840



## Stockmar and his Shrewdness

history has Royalty been served with a devotion so purely noble and unselfish as that of this remarkable man to the Queen and the Prince. Lord Palmerston spoke of him to Bunsen as 'one of the best political heads he had ever met with.' By Bunsen himself he was 'honoured as one of the first statesmen in Europe.' In the ordinary affairs of life his knowledge of men and shrewd practical sense might always be relied on ; while, at the same time, a high moral standard, and strong religious convictions, in which there was no leaven of sectarianism, gave a commanding weight and elevation to his character and counsels."

Before Prince Albert had been twelve months in England Sir Robert Peel spoke of him as "an extraordinary young man," while Lord Kingsdown frankly confessed that "his aptitude for business was wonderful ; the dullest and most intricate matters did not escape his attention ; his judgment was very good ; his readiness to listen to any suggestions although against his own opinions was constant, and though I saw his temper very often tried, yet in the course of twenty years I never once saw it disturbed, nor witnessed any sign of impatience." It was not till ten years after his marriage that the Prince Consort in a letter to the Duke of Wellington (from the first the true and trusted friend of the Queen), declining a tempting proposal to succeed him as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, made a sort of confession of faith as to what he considered to be the duties of his position. In 1850 he writes as follows :

"Whilst a female Sovereign has a great many disadvantages in comparison with a King, yet, if she is married, and her husband understands and

## The Boyhood of a Great King

does his duty, her position, on the other hand, has its many compensating advantages, and, in the long run, will be found even to be stronger than that of a male Sovereign. But this requires that the husband should entirely sink his own *individual* existence in that of his wife ; that he should aim at no power by himself or for himself ; should shun all contention, assume no separate responsibility before the public, but make his position entirely a part of hers ; fill up every gap which, as a woman, she would naturally leave in the exercise of her regal functions ; continually and anxiously watch every part of the public business, in order to be able to advise and assist her at any moment in any of the multifarious and difficult questions or duties brought before her, sometimes international, sometimes political, social or personal. As the natural head of her family, superintendent of her household, manager of her private affairs, sole *confidential* adviser in politics and only assistant in her communications with the officers of the Government, he is besides the husband of the Queen, *the tutor of the Royal children*, the private Secretary of the Sovereign, and her permanent Minister.”

In all probability the months which intervened between the Queen's marriage (February 10) and the birth of the Princess Royal\* (November 21, 1840), were the happiest of their lives. The points of sympathy between them were very great. They were both endowed with an amount of natural energy and capacity for hard work which may fairly and without exaggeration be described as phenomenal. The Queen's strong sense of duty

\* The late Empress Frederick of Germany is always alluded to in these pages as the Princess Royal.



Ich hab' mich schonen die ich werde  
 Nicht mehr das werde, ich nicht aus la

# SCENE FROM GOETHE

SKETCHED BY QUEEN VICTORIA AND ETCHED BY PRINCE ALBERT  
 A FORTNIGHT BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF WALES





## Queen Victoria Artist and Etcher

and desire "to work for the good of her people" was shared to the fullest extent by her young husband. Their ages were almost identical, our Queen having been born on May 24, 1819, and Prince Albert on August 26 following. They both infinitely preferred a country to a town\* life, and revelled in the rustic beauties and pure atmosphere of Windsor and Claremont, where nearly the whole of what may be described as their long honeymoon was spent. Both were artists and art-lovers in the broadest and most catholic sense of the word. Never had the Royal Academy so enthusiastic, intelligent, and critical a chief as the Queen of eighteen;† Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were both artists and musicians of more than ordinary skill. In the halcyon days of 1840 they played, sang, sketched, and etched together to their heart's content. Of the many examples of their handiwork in the collection described in the preface to this volume, the greater number were executed in the first year of their married life. Few sovereigns ever sat so often and so patiently for her portrait as Queen Victoria. Anything like a complete

\* In one of the many annotations made by the late Queen Victoria to General Grey's narrative she says the heavy air of London often gave her headaches.

† An admirable account of the influence of the late Queen on pictorial art and her life-long association with British artists will be found in the article contributed by Mr. M. H. Spielmann to the *Magazine of Art* for 1901, pp. 193-197. He tells us that although she had visited the Royal Academy's Exhibition in its new abode only a few weeks before her accession, she came there again as Queen and made a prolonged and careful examination of the pictures. She "confirmed" the privilege of "access" at all times vested in the President, at that time Sir Martin Archer Shee, and conferred the honour of knighthood on Callcott, Newton, and Westmacott. Mr. W. P. Frith, R.A., now the Nestor of British painters and still able to use the brush effectively at the age of eighty-seven, was an exhibitor in 1837.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

enumeration of the pictures of her, current during the first decade of her reign, would be a difficult, if not an impossible task. "The Queen," writes Mr. Spielmann, "would have her favourite Guernsey cow 'Buffie' painted with her calves beside her—and it was Mr. T. Sidney Cooper who had to do it. The Prince Consort in genial terms criticised the dock leaves in the foreground of the picture as 'being evidence of bad farming.' The Queen asked her husband what he thought of the cow's hind leg being in a small pool of water. 'I like it much,' said the Prince. 'So do I,' replied the Queen, 'but it's evidence of bad drawing.'" The Knight of Saxony and the Queen of England were evidently humorists in a quiet way as well as acute and observant art-critics. Very few meritorious British artists of those days lacked the Queen's active sympathy and support. Mr. Spielmann alludes in appreciative terms to the various family portraits drawn and etched at this time by the Queen and Prince Consort (sometimes with the help of Sir Edwin Landseer), many examples of which figure in the collection now in possession of the writer. Special mention is made by Mr. Spielmann of the etched portrait of the late Queen's half-sister and first companion, the Princess Feodore and her daughter Adelaide Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, the mother of the present German Empress.\* In

\* Most of these etchings were begun and finished at Windsor or Buckingham Palace. They were "bit" principally by Miss Marianne Skerritt, who held nominally the post of "first dresser" from 1837 until July 1862. During that time she conducted most of the Queen's correspondence with the artist. His uncle Mr. Mathias had been Queen Charlotte's sub-treasurer. She possessed a large collection of the Queen's etchings, as well as some very beautiful water-colour sketches by the Princess Royal. Some of the latter realised high prices.

## The Halcyon Days of 1840 and 1841

concluding his remarks Mr. Spielmann refutes the idea that her late Majesty's artistic sympathies always remained "early Victorian" in their tendency. He points out that towards the end of her life she caused a collection to be made of Whistler etchings, and employed such artists as Mr. de Triqueti and Mr. Alfred Gilbert for the creation of decorative work of the greatest importance. Her daughters, the late Empress Frederick and the Princess Louise (the Duchess of Argyll)—the latter an accomplished sculptress, inherited in a very marked degree their mother's talent. "Future generations," says Mr. Spielmann, "will not perhaps forget that in the ranks of the great army of artists who changed what was once a reproach into a triumph, the Monarch herself has claimed a modest place, and by her example, if not quite by her achievement, had added a great vital force to the gracious advance of Art." A love of animals in general, and of dogs in particular, distinguished both the Queen and Prince Albert. The latter brought "Eos,"\* a beautiful black greyhound, with him to England, and a year before the Queen is said to have put aside her Coronation robes to give "Dash" his daily washing. In any case "Eos," "Islay" (a Scotch terrier), "Waldmann" (a dachshund), and sundry other canine pets served as models for a number of the royal sketches and etchings which bear the dates of 1840, 1841, and 1842.

Prince Albert's early letters to Coburg afford abundant evidence of the completeness of his domestic happiness. His position, however, as far as the affairs of State are concerned, is fraught with

\* A figure of "Eos" sleeping is placed at the feet of the recumbent effigy of the Prince Consort in the Royal Mausoleum.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

difficulties. He, however, soon begins to make headway, sticking consistently to the resolution he had formed on the subject of political impartiality. Lord Melbourne consulted him more and more frequently, and his views, always committed to paper, are often adopted. Mr. Anson is appointed to be his private secretary, and becomes his best friend. The question of his precedence becomes the subject of pamphlets and polemics, but the question is at last satisfactorily settled by Letters Patent. In April the Duchess of Kent removes to Clarence House, and the Prince is occupied in selecting music for the Ancient Concerts of which he has been appointed a director. The Queen continues her singing-lessons with the portly Lablache. Prince Albert often joins in them, and at other times they play together on the piano and organ. On May 24, the Queen's birthday is kept very happily at rural Claremont, a custom rigorously observed, with only one exception, till 1848. Improvements of various kinds are now commenced at Windsor and in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, where an aviary is established. The attempt on the Queen's life by Oxford (June 10, 1840) was not calculated to increase her love of London, but she bears herself bravely, and her courage increases her popularity. Whenever she appears, she is cheered to the echo. In August they are once more in Windsor. Prince Albert has succeeded in preserving George IV.'s fishing-cottage at Virginia Water. He is now forming a stud, improving the "Slopes," and putting in order the forgotten and neglected Flemish farm. Practical husbandry is one of the accomplishments of the Queen's husband, who is now made a Citizen and Goldsmith as well as a Citizen and Fishmonger. Rarely had he spent

## Work and Play

a happier birthday. "In the morning," he writes to his grandmother, "I was awoke by a reveillé. We breakfasted at Adelaide Cottage. Féodore's children were dressed as Coburg peasants and very funny they looked." A few days later he informs Baron Stockmar that he has commenced the study of English jurisprudence with the aid of Mr. Selwyn, a distinguished barrister. On September 11, he takes in London the oath as a Member of the Privy Council. No sooner do they return to Windsor than the Queen and Prince Albert commence reading together the first volume of Hallam's "Constitutional History."

The conjugal affection of the girl-queen and her youthful consort is soon appreciated by all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and rapidly finds an echo throughout the length and breadth of England in both art and literature. The "Windsor Pear" is sold in thousands. Nearly half a century ago Edmund Yates\* describes one of them in his "Recollections and Experiences," as "a mild pictorial joke—a representation of a fine specimen of the fruit, with what theatrical people would call a 'practical rind,' which being lifted, discovered portraits of the Queen and Prince inside." The Prince's stock or neckcloth (more voluminous than that then in fashion) is also made the object of another "practical" toy, while Mr. Spooner of the Strand published a caricature on the subject entitled "The Royal Tie or a Preparation for Precedency." The walks and drives in Windsor Forest gave rise to at least half a dozen playful skits on the words "dear" and "deer," not very witty, it is true, but certainly neither unkind nor spiteful.

\* "Edmund Yates : His Recollections and Experiences." London : Bentley, 1884.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

The Queen and Prince Albert were acclaimed by the voice of the people as fitting recipients of the historic "Dunmow Flitch," and "H. B." signs and produces a humorous version of Stothard's "admirable picture of *The Procession of the Flitch of Bacon*, somewhat metamorphosed," of which the central figures are the Queen and Prince Albert on horseback. Before them march Lords Duncannon, Morpeth, and Brougham, with Sir Francis Burdett\* playing on various musical instruments; at their side on foot are Lords Palmerston and the Duke of Wellington, and behind them ride Lords Melbourne, Normandy, and John Russell, the Duchess of Kent, and Lord Stanley crowned with roses. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge bring up the rear. Lord Howick and Mr. Charles Wood contemplate the scene from behind a garden wall. The portraits are life-like. Although it manifestly relates to the year 1840, it was not published by McLean, of the Haymarket, till February 1841.

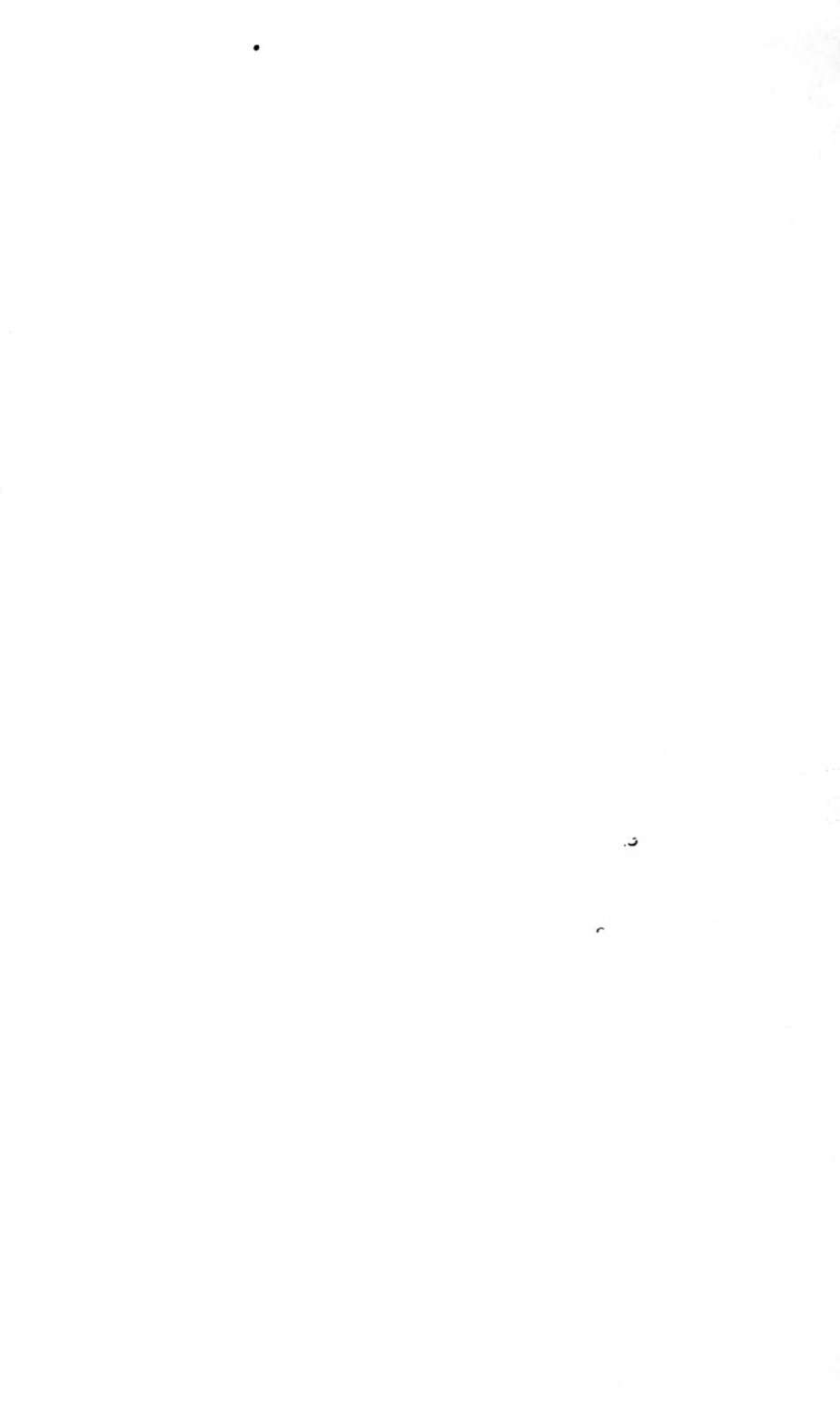
On November 21, 1840, the Princess Royal was born at Windsor Castle. Two days later writing to his father, Prince Albert says: "Victoria is as well as if nothing had happened. . . . The little one is very well and very merry. I should certainly have liked it better if it had been a son, as would Victoria also; but at the same time we must be equally satisfied and thankful as it is." General Grey tells us that during the Queen's illness the Prince saw the Ministers and transacted all necessary

\* His daughter the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, born five years before Queen Victoria, is another living link with the period of her accession and marriage. As the great heiress Miss Angelica Coutts, she figures prominently in the Court news of that epoch. She has more than fulfilled all the expectations which her first acts of large-handed but discriminating generosity gave rise to.



MRS. LILLY, THE NURSE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE  
BIRTH OF ALL QUEEN VICTORIA'S CHILDREN

*From a contemporary "H. B." caricature*





## Birth of the Princess Royal

business for her. The Queen makes a good recovery and is able to return to Windsor earlier than was expected. Public attention is exercised about the nursery and armorial bearings of the newly born "heiress of England." Mrs. Lilly was in attendance at Buckingham Palace and afforded a new subject for the caricaturist. In December the appointment as nurse of Mrs. Packer is announced, and the *Times* is able to inform its readers that she was "a native of Edinburgh where she was well known as Miss Augusta Gow. She is the daughter of the late Nathaniel Gow of that city, and grand-daughter of the celebrated Neil Gow ('Famous Neil'). Mrs. Packer studied music at the Royal Academy, London, with the view of becoming a public singer, in which character she appeared in Edinburgh at several concerts."

Early in the following year the Queen was able to write that her little girl bore "her Saxon arms in the middle of her English coat, which looks very pretty."\* Her Majesty fully shared Prince Albert's veneration for his long line of Saxon ancestors. The Christmas of 1840 at Windsor was a joyous one. The taper-lit and gift-laden Christmas-tree, so closely associated with childish days at Rosenau, is now supplemented by the boar's head as well as by the plum-pudding and roast beef of Old England.

\* The Saxon coat-of-arms has horizontal black bars upon a yellow ground, and diagonally across the field is a cognisance which looks like a green coronet stretched out, but is the heraldic representation of a "wreath of rue," which, in Elizabeth's time, in England used to be called the "herb of grace."

## CHAPTER IV

THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF WALES,  
NOVEMBER 9, 1841

A GENERAL election and a consequent change of Ministry took place during the twelve months which divided the birth of the Prince of Wales from that of his elder sister the Princess Royal. What two years before would have caused the Queen endless worry and anxiety now only occasioned her a feeling of very natural sorrow and regret at losing the services of an old and trusted friend like Lord Melbourne, who had initiated her into the ways and mysteries of her high office. Although the age of "terminological divergences" was still in the dim future, Prince Albert had no fancy for the turmoil of a general election.

"The impending dissolution," he wrote, "is now the engrossing topic of interest. It empties purses, sets families by the ears, demoralises the lower classes, and prevents many of the upper whose character wants strength to keep them straight." By this time, however, his sound common sense had prevailed, and the Queen was a convert to his opinion that if Royalty would avoid pitfalls it must eschew politics. In September the Peel Cabinet was formed, and Charles Greville, no longer a hostile critic of the Queen's husband, although he had little sympathy with the Saxon quarterings, makes the following note in his diary of the 4th of that



THE PRINCESS ROYAL (EMPRESS FREDERICK) IN 1841

DRAWN AND ETCHED BY THE QUEEN



## “Punch” as a Prophet

month: “Went yesterday to Claremont for the Council at which the new Ministers were appointed—a day of severe trial for the Queen, who conducted herself in a manner which excited my greatest admiration and was really touching to see. . . . She looked very much flushed, and her heart was evidently brim full, but she was composed, and throughout the whole of the proceedings, when her emotion might very well have overpowered her, she preserved complete self-possession, composure, and dignity. . . . Peel was charmed with her.”

Early in November the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal are once more at Buckingham Palace. “Mr. Punch,” who had come into existence since the birth of the third “heiress of England” of the nineteenth century, was determined to justify his boast of being able to furnish “the earliest information of the movements of the Fashionable World” (the capitals are his), made mention in his issue of a certain impending event which might occasion possible complications at the Mansion Houses of London and Dublin.\* Once more the old saying about a true word being often said in jest, was to be verified almost to the letter. For many years November 9 had been sacred to the great processional pageant by which London celebrated the inauguration of its Chief Magistrate, installed but not elected on that day. Four years previously the Queen had honoured the symposium which followed the time-honoured spectacle with her presence. In 1841 the Lord Mayor’s Show was partly aquatic in its conception, the civic dignitaries on their return journey “taking the water” at Westminster and proceeding thence in the direction of London Bridge. In the course

\* See *post*, p. 97.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of the day in question the Right Honourable Alderman Thomas Johnson would be Right Honourable no longer, and the Right Honourable Alderman John Pirie would reign in his stead. The exact date of the birth of the expected child of the Queen might be of great consequence to both these "citizens of credit and renown," and still more so to Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Pirie. The traditions of Lady Cowan's gown of green and gold, still lingered on the further side of Temple Bar. Alderman Pirie's "show" was to be on a more sumptuous scale than usual. In 1837 Sir John Cowan had distinguished himself by having two colossal figures of Gog and Magog walking in his procession. Under Lord Mayor Pirie's auspices a fully rigged and manned ship on wheels was to be dragged through the streets. Apart from the annual carnival of the wealthiest and most powerful Corporation in Christendom November 9 was remarkable for no event of particular note. Even the saints assigned to it were very minor saints indeed. The world at large knows nothing, and cares less for St. Mathurin, the Priest; St. Theodorus, surnamed Tyro, the Martyr; St. Benignus, the Bishop; and St. Vitonius, the Confessor. Mark Akenside and William Sotheby could, however, both claim it for a birthday, and it was on November 9 that William Camden, Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon, and Paul Sanby died. As it turned out the then juvenile "Mr. Punch" proved not only to be a true prophet, but something more than a prophet. Bow bells were still ringing in honour of the outgoing of Thomas Johnson or the incoming of John Pirie, when a second edition of the *Times* contained the following announcement:

## A Notable Ninth of November

“THE ACCOUCHEMENT OF HER MAJESTY.

“BIRTH OF A PRINCE OF WALES.

“The *Times* Office,  
“Quarter-Past Eleven o'clock A.M.

“We have the utmost pleasure in announcing that at 10 minutes to eleven o'clock this morning her Majesty was safely delivered of a Prince.”

The official bulletin which appeared a little later was as follows :

“The Queen was safely delivered of a Prince this morning at 48 minutes past 10 o'clock.

“Her Majesty and the Infant Prince are going on well.

“JAMES CLARK, M.D.

“CHARLES LOCOCK, M.D.

“ROBERT FERGUSON, M.D.

“RICHARD BLAGDEN, M.D.”

It is certain that no Lord Mayor's Show ever has been or ever will be celebrated in the midst of such a scene of wild and universal enthusiasm as attended the birth of the Great King of 1906, the infant heir apparent of 1841. Considering the distance between Buckingham Palace and Printing House Square, and the probable absence of telegraphic communication, the feat achieved by the leading journal not yet known as “Jupiter” was certainly a remarkable one.

The event of the morning infused unwonted animation into the subsequent proceedings at the Guildhall, although the baby at Buckingham Palace had supplanted the Right Honourable John Pirie as the hero *par excellence* of the hour. Her Majesty's name was hailed with deafening cheers, which were renewed over and over again when the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Lord Mayor called on the company to drink in a loving cup, "Health and long life to the Infant Prince, the Heir Apparent to the British throne."

One learns from the journals of the following day that :

"A most gratifying demonstration of the public joy in consequence of the birth of a Prince of Wales, took place last night at the Adelphi Theatre. For some time previous to the hour appointed for the commencement of the performance the house was densely crowded, and as soon as the curtain rose a loud and unanimous cry for "God Save the Queen" arose from all parts of the house. After the confusion had lasted for some minutes Mr. Cullenford advanced to the front of the stage and, addressing the audience, said 'that their wish would be complied with as soon as possible ; that the vocalists of the establishment had not at that time arrived, but whenever they should make their appearance the National Anthem would be sung by the entire strength of the theatre.' This assurance had the desired effect, but immediately after the conclusion of the first act the cries were renewed, if possible, more vociferously than before, upon which Mr. Yates, dressed as the Duke in *The Maid of Honour*, presented himself, and as soon as a silence could be obtained, spoke as follows : 'Ladies and Gentlemen, —we will do ourselves the honour, and this house the pleasure, of singing God Save the Queen at the conclusion of the piece.' (A voice from the boxes, 'No.') 'A gentleman says "No," but I am sure he will say yes when I tell him that the vocal performers are not in the house. As soon as I can muster the necessary strength, your wishes shall be immediately complied with.' (Cheers.) As the perform-



## Enthusiasm at the Adelphi

ance proceeded, the audience occasionally manifested symptoms of impatience. At last when the piece was brought to a conclusion the entire company came on the stage before the drop scene fell, and sang the usual anthem, the following additional verse, extemporised for the occasion by Mr. Plunkett, being given by Mrs. Grattan :

‘ Oh, Lord, in bounty shed  
Joys round the Infant’s Head,  
Shield him from harm :  
Hear now a nation’s prayer,  
Guard England’s youthful heir,  
Make him thy special care ;  
God save the Queen.’

“ Nothing could exceed the enthusiastic acclamation with which the last verse was received, and the manifestations of loyalty and joy displayed by the audience in all parts of the house exceeded anything which we have ever witnessed.”

The *Times* in its first leading article same day (November 10) strikes a loyal and friendly if more sober note, and that without taking credit for the efficiency of its intelligence department on the previous morning :

“ The auspicious event which we announced yesterday of her Majesty’s second happy delivery and the birth of an heir apparent to the English throne will create one universal feeling of joy throughout the kingdom. The public have for some time been expecting this intelligence with impatient anxiety, and the minds of all were made up to the conviction that the illustrious infant would be a Prince of Wales. Providence has graciously been pleased to realise these anticipations, and to bestow upon the British nation the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

strongest possible guarantee for the continuance of all the innumerable blessings which are involved in that form of Government under which we have the happiness to live."

In the course of the day (November 10) a London Gazette extraordinary is issued bearing the number 20,035 :

"Tuesday, *November 9, 1841.*

"Buckingham Palace, *November 9, 1841.*

"This morning at twelve minutes before eleven the Queen was happily delivered of a Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, several Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the Ladies of Her Majesty's Bedchamber being present.

"This great and important news was immediately made known to the town by the firing of the Park and Tower Guns ; and the Privy Council being assembled, as soon as possible thereupon, at the Council Chamber, Whitehall, it was ordered that a form of Thanksgiving for the Queen's safe delivery of a Prince be prepared by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be used in all churches and chapels throughout England and Wales, and the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, on Sunday the 14th of November, or the Sunday after the respective ministers shall receive the same.

"Her Majesty and the Infant Prince, are, God be praised, both doing well."

On the same day in the ordinary Gazette appeared the following :

"At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 9th day of November 1841. By the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

## Prayer and Thanksgiving

“It is this day ordered by their Lordships that his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury do prepare a form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for Her Majesty’s safe delivery of a Prince; and that such form of Prayer and Thanksgiving\* be used in all churches and Chapels in England and Wales and in the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, upon Sunday the 14th day of this instant November, or the Sunday after the respective Ministers thereof shall receive the same.

“And it is hereby further ordered, that Her Majesty’s printer do forthwith print a competent number of copies of the said form of Prayer and Thanksgiving that the same may be forthwith sent round and read in the several churches and chapels of England and Wales and of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

“C. C. GREVILLE.

\* Archbishop Howley’s Thanksgiving Prayer was as follows :

“O Merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gifts mankind is increased, we most humbly offer unto Thee our hearty thanks for Thy great goodness vouchsafed to Thy people, in delivering Thy servant our Sovereign Lady the Queen from the perils of childbirth and giving her the blessing of a Son. Continue, we beseech Thee, Thy fatherly care over her; support and comfort her in the hours of weakness; and day by day renew her strength. Preserve the Infant Prince from whatever is hurtful either to body or soul; and endue him as he advances in years with true wisdom and every Christian virtue. Regard with Thine especial favour our Queen and her Royal Consort, that they may long live together in the enjoyment of all earthly happiness, and may finally be made partakers of thine everlasting glory. Implant in the hearts of Thy people a deep sense of Thy manifold mercies, and give us grace to show forth our thankfulness by dutiful affection to our Sovereign, by brotherly love towards one another, and by constant obedience to Thy commandments; so that, passing through this life in Thy faith and fear, we may in the life to come be received into Thy heavenly kingdom through the Merits and Mediation of Thy Blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“It is this day ordered by their Lordships that every Minister and Preacher as well of the Established Church in that part of Great Britain called Scotland as those of the Episcopal Communion, protected and allowed by an Act passed in the tenth year of Her Majesty Queen Anne, Chapter 7, intituled: ‘An Act to prevent the disturbing those of the Episcopal Communion in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, in the exercise of their religious worship and in the use of the Liturgy of the Church of England; and for the repealing the Act passed in the Parliament of Scotland intituled, “An Act against irregular baptisms and Marriages,”’ do at some time during the exercise of divine Service in their respective churches, congregations, or assemblies, put up their Prayers and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for Her Majesty’s safe delivery of a Prince.

“C. C. GREVILLE.”

If the rest of the world was satisfied, Mr. Greville was not. On November 11, 1841, he writes in the private diary destined to cause so many heart-burnings after his death :

“*November 11.*—The Queen was delivered of a son at forty-eight minutes after ten on Tuesday morning the 9th. From some crotchet of Prince Albert’s, they put off sending intelligence of Her Majesty being in labour till so late that several of the Dignitaries, whose duty it was to assist at the birth, arrived after the event had occurred, particularly the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord President of the Council. At two o’clock a Council was held and the usual thanksgiving ordered. Last year the Prince took the Chair, which was all wrong; and this time I placed him

## The Grumbling of Greville

at the top of the table on the left, the Archbishop next him. None of the Royal Dukes were summoned. 'God Save the Queen' was sung with great enthusiasm at the theatres and great joy manifested generally. The event came very opportunely for the Lord Mayor's dinner. . . . A curious point has arisen interesting to the Guards. It has been the custom for the officer on guard at St. James's Palace to be promoted to a majority when a Royal Child is born. The guard is relieved at forty-five minutes after ten. At that hour the new guard marched into the Palace Yard, and at forty-eight minutes after ten the child was born. The question arises which officer is entitled to the promotion. The officer of the fresh guard claims it because the relief marched in before the birth, and the keys were delivered over to him; but the other officer claims it because the sentries had not been changed when the child was actually born, his men were still on guard, and he disputes the fact of the delivery of the keys, arguing that in all probability this had not occurred at the moment of birth. The case was decided by Lord Hill in favour of the old guard. It is odd enough that there is a similar case involving civic honours at Chester. The Prince being Earl of Chester by birth, the Mayor of Chester claims a Baronetcy. The old Mayor went out and the new Mayor came into office the same day and about the same hour, and it is doubtful which functionary is entitled to the honour. The ex-Mayor was a Whig banker, and the new one is a Tory linen-draper. I find that during the Queen's confinement all the boxes and business are transmitted as usual to the Palace, and the former opened and returned by the Prince. He established this practice last year. At first

## The Boyhood of a Great King

orders were given to the Foreign Office to send no more boxes to the Palace ; but two days after, fresh orders were received to send the boxes as usual, and to furnish the Prince with the necessary keys." It is very hard to throw suspicion on an anecdote which has done yeoman service on so many occasions, but it appears that the story of the rival Mayors at Chester is nothing more or less than one more instance of the *ben trovato*. In the previous year Mr. Greville had written a pamphlet on the question of precedency in the Privy Council in which the following sentence occurs : \*

"The heir apparent is Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, *but he is not necessarily either the one or the other*, and except on a certain condition he cannot be the latter. For as the King *creates* his elder son, or heir apparent, Prince of Wales, he has the power of withholding such creation, and though *the eldest son of the King is Duke of Cornwall by inheritance*, the dukedom is limited to the first begotten son of the King." Mr. Greville emphasises this assertion by pointing out first that "two months elapsed between the death of Frederick Prince of Wales, and the creation of his son George III. as Prince of Wales," and then adding : "If for example George IV. had died in his youth his next brother might have been heir apparent with no other title than that of Bishop of Osnaburgh. Henry VIII., after the death of Prince Arthur, and Charles I., after that of Prince Henry, were Dukes of Cornwall, but by special new creation."

Under these circumstances, and according to Mr. Greville's own showing, what possible claim could either the outgoing or the incoming Mayor of the ancient and picturesque city of Chester have to

\* Greville Memoirs, vol. iv. p. 280.

## A Legend of Chester

any particular distinction on November 9, 1841 ? The writer is indebted to Mr. N. A. E. Way, Clerk of the Peace, Chester, for the following letter from Mr. Henry Taylor, a local antiquarian and acknowledged authority on the history of the metropolis of the Marches, which lays to rest for ever the "good story" of the sardonic Clerk of the Privy Council which has been unhesitatingly adopted as authentic ever since it first saw the light :

"Greville has evidently been gulled. The Mayor of Chester has no claim either by custom or otherwise to a Baronetcy or even a Knighthood on the birth of an eldest son to the Reigning Sovereign. We in Chester were under the impression that such son became at once on his Father ascending the Throne Earl of Chester, but from the precedent set in the case of the present Prince of Wales this is not so, and he is not Earl of Chester until a Patent is issued so creating him. Mr. Wardell\* was a partner with Mr. Thomas Dixon. The firm in 1841 was Dixon & Wardell. They were the Grosvenor Bankers and therefore Whigs. The Dixons were Timber Merchants and became Bankers at the instance of the Grosvenor party. Mr. William Brown† was a leading Citizen, but I am not aware of his party politics."

The writer will refrain from throwing doubt on any of the items of the legendary lore in connection with the birth of his present Majesty, although the very ancient chestnut about the Duke of Wellington arriving in hot haste, and on asking Mrs. Lilly as to whether it was a girl or a boy, and receiving the triumphant reply, "A Prince your Grace," is scarcely reconcilable with Mr. Greville's statement as to the

\* The outgoing Mayor in 1841.

† The Mayor who came into office on November 9, 1841.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

delay in the Duke's reaching the palace. In a little volume published more than a quarter of a century ago\* we are, however, told that: "The Duke of Wellington was the first to welcome and eagerly scan the tiny features of the Royal stranger. As he was leaving the Palace afterwards he met Lord Hill, who had been among those summoned to attend, but arrived too late; in answer to Lord Hill's inquiry, as to how matters were, the Duke replied: 'All over—fine boy, very fine boy, almost as red as you Hill.'"

Before the eventful day was over, and almost before the echoes of the guns and the cheering had died away the ballad-makers and caricaturists were hard at work. A charming little portrait (imaginary in all probability), sewn on a tiny silk pin-cushion, was sold by the score. A highly coloured picture of the Queen with her two children, the Duchess of Kent and Prince Albert, with the words:

"Oh Lord in bounty shed  
Joys round the infant's head;  
Shield him from harm, &c."

found a ready market, but far more popular was an anonymous caricature entitled the "Inspection of Royalty," in which the Duke of Wellington in the guise of a nurse is portrayed showing the Duke of Cornwall (the author was, at any rate, perfectly correct in his genealogy) to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Judges, and the rest of the Privy Council, while Prince Albert in flowing dressing-gown and Star of the Garter holds aloft the Princess Royal ("Heiress of England" no longer), saying, "Look at your little brother," to which she replies, "O Pa my occupation's gone." The following is

\* "Early years of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, K.C.," by A. Ward and Lock, 1859.



# The Political Prayer of Sydney Smith

a fair specimen of the ballad literature of November 1841 :

“Hark, the joyous peal is mingling  
With the cannons’ welcome roar ;  
Whilst the sounds of myriad voices  
Echo on from shore to shore.  
Now the Monarch’s heart is bounding,  
Now the Mother’s joy we share ;  
Oh how fond the hopes and wishes  
Millions breathe for England’s Heir.”

Thanks to the activity of the Queen’s Printer the solemn form of Thanksgiving drawn up by the Archbishop of Canterbury in accordance with the commands of the Privy Council, was used in most English churches throughout the country (certainly in all London ones) on the Sunday following the birth of the heir apparent. By a felicitous coincidence, Sydney Smith,\* critic, reviewer, essayist, man-of-the-world, and sayer of *bons-mots* innumerable, happened to be in residence at St. Paul’s. His friends the Whigs, for whom he had laboured so diligently, had done nothing for the brilliant conversationist and letter-writer, with whom it was said to be an article of faith that everything outside the parallelogram formed by Oxford Street and Piccadilly on the north and south, and Regent Street and Park Lane on the east and west was

\* In his biography of King Edward VII. Mr. James Penderel-Brothurst describes Sydney Smith’s “impromptu addition” as diplomatically “correct,” although wholly lacking in spirit and fervour, and therefore “flat.” The composition, from a political point of view, is just what one would have expected of an ardent Whig writing only four years after the death of William IV., and within eleven of the demise of his unpopular predecessor. Sydney Smith prayed politically and possibly a vein of latent humour and covert satire runs through the polished periods of his supplication. The complete transformation to be effected by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had still to come, and the good beginning already made was as yet only imperfectly realised.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the literary and social Sahara. On Sunday, November 14, 1841, a great opportunity came to the "witty Canon," but he missed it. The congregation at the Metropolitan Cathedral was larger than usual, as a topical sermon was confidently expected. The only notice, however, taken of the great event of the previous week, was the addition of the following words to the supplication for all sorts of dignitaries both lay and ecclesiastical: "We pray also for that infant of the Royal race whom, in Thy good providence Thou hast given us for our future King. We beseech Thee so to mould his heart and fashion his spirit that he may be a blessing, and not an evil to the land of his birth. May he grow in favour with man by leaving to its own force and direction the energy of a free people. May he grow in favour with God by holding the faith in Christ fervently and feelingly, without feebleness, without fanaticism, without folly. As he will be the first man in these realms, so may he be the best, disclaiming to hide bad actions by high station, and endeavouring always, by his example of a strict and moral life, to repay those gifts which a loyal people are so willing to spare from their own necessities to a good King."

"Mr. Punch" was pardonably proud of his signal success as a prophet. There was no "special edition," but in his next issue (that of November 13) he takes due credit for all that had occurred since his allusion to the fears which beset the mind municipal. "It will seem," he says, "that we were not premature in announcing the probability of the birth of a Prince of Wales; and though it was impossible that any one should be able to speak with certainty, our positive tone upon the occasion serves to show the exclusive nature of all our intelli-

## “Punch’s” Satisfaction

gence. We are enabled now to state that the Prince will immediately take, indeed he has already taken, the title of *Prince of Wales*, which it is generally understood he will enjoy—at least if a child so young can be said to enjoy anything of the kind—until an event shall happen which we hope will be postponed for a very protracted period. The Prince of Wales, should he survive his mother, will ascend the throne; but whether he will be George the Fifth, Albert the First, Henry the Ninth, Charles the Third or Anything the Nothingth, depends upon circumstances we are not able to allude to—at present; nor do we think we shall be enabled to do so in a second edition. . . . We very much regret to make an announcement, and are glad to be the first to do so, though we are sorry to advert to the subject, touching an alarming symptom in the Princess Royal. Her Royal Highness, ever since the birth of the Prince, whom we think we may now venture to call her brother, has suffered from an affection of the nose, which is said to be quite out of joint since the royal stranger (for we hope we may take the liberty of alluding to the Prince of Wales as a stranger, for he is a stranger to us, at least we have never seen him) came into existence. We hear it on good authority that when the Princess was taken to see her brother, Her Royal Highness, who begins to articulate a few sounds, exclaimed, ‘*Tar!*’ with unusual emphasis. It is supposed from this simple, but affecting circumstance, that the Prince of Wales will eventually become a *Tar* and perhaps regain for the country the undisputed dominion of the seas, which, by the bye, has not been questioned, and probably will not be, in which case the naval attributes of His Royal Highness will not be brought into activity.” Far

## The Boyhood of a Great King

better than all this, perhaps, are the rollicking verses :

“Huzza ! we’ve a little Prince at last,  
A roaring Royal boy ;  
And all day long the booming bells  
Have rung their peals of joy.

“And the little park guns have blazed away,  
And made a tremendous noise,  
Whilst the air has been filled since eleven o’clock  
With the shouts of little boys.”

Not less diverting were the satiric shafts discharged from his bow on the following Saturday, to which was given the title of “The Prince of Wales—His future times.” A private letter from Hanover states that at precisely twelve minutes to eleven in the morning of the ninth of the present November his Majesty King Ernest was suddenly attacked by a violent fit of the blue devils. All the Court doctors were immediately summoned and as immediately dismissed by his Majesty, who sent for the Wizard of the North (recently appointed royal astrologer) to divine the mysterious cause of this so sudden melancholy. In a trice the mystery was solved—Queen Victoria was “happily delivered of a Prince.” His Majesty was immediately assisted to his chamber—put to bed—the curtains drawn—all the royal household ordered to wear list slippers—the one knocker to the palace was carefully tied up—and (on the departure of our courier) half a load of straw was already deposited beneath the window of the royal chamber. The sentinels on duty were prohibited from even sneezing under pain of death, and all things in and about the palace, to use a brand new simile were silent as the grave. “Whilst there was only the Princess Royal there were many hopes. There

## King Ernest and the Two Cradles

was hope from severe teething—hope from measles—hope from whooping-cough—but with the addition of a Prince of Wales—the hopes of Hanover are below par.” But we pause. We will no further invade the sanctity of the sorrows of a king ; merely observing that that which makes his Majesty very savage, makes thousands of Englishmen mighty glad. “There are now two cradles between the Crown of England and the White Horse of Hanover.” After a playful hit at Colonel Sibthorp (the target *par excellence* of Mr. Punch in his youth), and an amusing comparison of the omens which attended the birth of George IV. and those which characterised the advent of the next Prince of Wales—just seventy-nine years separating the two events, the writer once more returns to the felicitous coincidences inherent in the ninth of November : “Oh men of Paisley—good folks of Bolton,\* what promise for ye is here ! Turkeys, capons, sirloins, asparagus, pheasants, pine-apples, savoury cakes, Chantilly baskets, mince pies, preserved ginger, brandy cherries, a thousand luscious cates ‘the sense aches at !’ What are all these gifts of plenty, but a glad promise that in the time of ‘the sweetest young Prince,’ that on the birthday of that Prince just vouchsafed to us, all England will be a large Lord Mayor’s table ! Will it be possible for Englishmen to disassociate in their minds the Prince of Wales and the Prince of Good Fellows ? And whereas the reigns of other potentates are signalled by bloodshed and war, the time of the Prince will be glorified by cooking and good cheer. His drum-sticks will be the drum-sticks of turkeys—his cannon the popping of corks. In his day, even weavers shall know the taste of geese, and factory

\* Then the scene of great distress.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

children smack their lips at the gravy of the great sirloin. Join your glasses! Brandish your carving-knives! Cry welcome to the Prince of Wales! for he comes garnished with all the world's good things. He shall live in the hearts, and (what is more) in the stomachs of his people."

The subject of the Prince of Wales had seemingly an irresistible fascination for the increasingly popular *London Charivari*. A series of paragraphs deal most amusingly with the Prince's honours, wardrobe, income, and military rank. We are informed "that his Royal Highness will, for the present, go by the title of 'Poppet,' affectionately conferred upon him by Mrs. Lilly at the moment of his birth. 'Poppet' is a title of very great antiquity, and has, from time immemorial been used as a mark of endearment towards a newly born child in all genteel families." As far as the Prince's education is concerned it "will be confined at present to teaching his Royal Highness how to take his pap without spilling it. A professor from the pap-al (a 'perishing pun' with a vengeance) will, it is expected, be entrusted with this branch of the royal economy."

Then turning to the Bulletins the irrepressible Sage of Fleet Street assures his readers that "The documents lately shown at Buckingham Palace are spurious and the real ones have been suppressed from party motives, which we shall not allude to. The following are genuine; they relate only to the Prince, the convalescence of Her Majesty, being, we are glad to say, so rapid as to require no official notice.

"Half-past Twelve.—The Prince has sneezed, and it is believed has smiled, although the nurses

## Bulletins—Real and Imaginary

are unable to pronounce whether the expression of pleasure arose from satisfaction or colic.

“Two o’clock.—The Prince is fast asleep, and is more quiet.

“Half-past Two.—The Prince has been shown to Sir Robert Peel, and was very fretful.”

The *Globe* lost no time in showing a tender interest in the nursery arrangements at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Cornwall was not a week old, when it was able to inform its readers that “The apartment set apart as the nursery of the Infant Prince immediately adjoins the chamber of the Queen, and is frequently visited by Prince Albert. . . . The person fortunate enough to have obtained the situation of nurse is the wife of Brough, an under servant at Claremont, and who was herself, before her marriage, a housemaid in the establishment. It is understood that the last wet nurse received 500*l.*, and it is said that, on the present occasion, all the gratuities are to be doubled in honour of the birth of an heir to the throne.”

The Queen is soon able to resume her journal and her letter-writing. On November 21, her Majesty makes the following entry :

“Albert brought in dearest little ‘Pussy’ (the Princess Royal) in such a smart white merino dress trimmed with blue, which Mama had given her, and a pretty cap, and placed her on my bed, seating himself next to her, and she was very dear and good. And as my precious, invaluable Albert sat there, and our little Love between us, I felt quite moved with happiness and gratitude to God.” A speedy move is again made to Windsor Castle, whence on December 6, the Queen wrote to King Leopold : “We arrived here *sains et saufs* with

## The Boyhood of a Great King

our awfully large nursery establishment yesterday morning. . . . I wonder very much whom our little boy will be like. You will understand *how* fervent are my prayers, and I am sure everybody's must be to see him resemble his father in *every, every* respect both in body and mind. . . . Oh! my dearest uncle, I am sure if you knew how happy, how blessed I feel, and how proud in possessing such a perfect being as my husband! And when you think that you have been instrumental in bringing about this union, it must gladden your heart. We must all have trials and vexations, but if one's home is happy then the rest is comparatively nothing. I assure you, dear uncle, that no one feels this more than I do. I had this autumn one of the severest trials I could have in parting with my government, and particularly from our kind and valued friend (Lord Melbourne), and I feel even now this last very much; but my happiness at home, with the love of my husband, his kindness, his advice, his support and his company, made up for all and made me forget."

"Mr. Punch," however, was for once somewhat premature in giving the Heir Apparent the title of Prince of Wales. It was not until December 7, four weeks exactly after the birth of the Heir Apparent, that the *London Gazette* made the following announcements:

Whitehall, December 4, 1841.

"The Queen has been pleased to order letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal for creating his Royal Highness the Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (Duke of Saxony, Duke of Cornwall and Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles



## An Heraldic Dispute

and Great Steward of Scotland) Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.”

It is interesting to note from the index of the *London Gazette* for 1841, part 2, that, on the birth of the Prince of Wales, 125 addresses of congratulation were presented to the Queen by “various corporations and guilds, Provosts, Magistrates, and Town Councils of towns, Lords Lieutenant, Vicars, and inhabitants,” while no fewer than 160 were presented to Prince Albert.

The implacable Greville could not, however, be satisfied. On December 5, he writes: “The difficulties and trouble that may be caused by trifles may be well illustrated by a matter which is now pending. Peel sent for me the day before yesterday to talk to me about the armorial bearings of the Prince of Wales, a matter apparently very simple and insignificant, but not at all so in fact. The Queen and Prince are very anxious to allot to this baby his armorial bearings, and they wish that he should quarter the arms of Saxony with the Royal arms of England. . . . The Queen gave the Princess Royal armorial bearings last year by warrant, but it is conceived that more formal proceedings are necessary in the case of the Heir Apparent. The last precedent is that of 1714 when George the First referred to the Privy Council the question of the Prince of Wales’s arms, who reported to His Majesty thereupon. . . . The difficulty is how to set the matter going. The last Marshal will not stir without an order to do so.” . . . “Graham [the Home Secretary] said it was not worth while to squabble about. He proposed to take it on himself and, on his own responsibility, order the Earl Marshal to draw out the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

coat-of-arms with the achievement according to the Queen's wishes. There was also a warm and prolonged controversy as to the insertion of the words, 'His Royal Highness' before the Prince of Wales's name in the Liturgy. It was finally decided in the negative." On December 9 Greville notes that the gazetting of the child as Duke of Saxony was adversely criticised at Holland House by Lord Palmerston and others.

It is not surprising that a week later Queen Victoria writes to her uncle King Leopold, at Laeken: "We must all have trials and vexations; but if one's *home* is happy, the rest is comparatively nothing." In spite of the carping of Greville and other candid friends, and a sufficiently gloomy political outlook both at home and abroad, the Christmas festivities of 1841 were as enjoyable as those of the preceding year. Prince Albert, as "a true Gotha man," was an adept at all sorts of domestic celebrations. It was now that the Queen writes in her journal: "To think that we have two children now, and one who enjoys the sight already is like a dream." While Prince Albert in his Christmas letter to his father, says: "This is the dear Christmas Eve, on which I have so often listened with impatience for your step, which was to usher us into the present room. To-day I have two children of my own to give presents to, who, they know not why are full of happy wonder at the German Christmas-tree and its radiant candles."

Long years afterwards Sir Theodore Martin seems, as it were, to catch the infection of these happy times and cheery letters. "The coming year" (1842) he tells his readers was "danced into in good old English fashion. In the middle of the dance, as the clock finished striking twelve, a flourish

## A Windsor Christmas

of trumpets was blown, in accordance with a German custom. This, the *Queen's Journal* records, 'had a fine solemn effect, and quite affected dear Albert, who turned pale and had tears in his eyes, and pressed my hand very warmly. It touched me too, for I felt that he must think of his dear native country, which he has left for me.' "

## CHAPTER V

### THREE YEARS OF HAPPY CHILDHOOD

1842—1843—1844

THE first year of King Edward VII.'s life can hardly be described as "a time of piping peace." Two small wars were in progress in the far East, one in Afghanistan, and the other in China; while the income-tax controversy and widespread distress in the manufacturing districts were occasioning a sufficiency of heart-burning at home. The distaste of both the Queen and Prince Albert for London life was certainly not diminished by the cowardly outrages offered to the royal person at the end of May and the beginning of July. In spite of the cares which beset the throne, the tranquillity of the pleasant home life at Windsor and Claremont remained undisturbed. Many of the etchings and sketches which were either the work of the Queen or Prince Albert, or not unfrequently their joint production, bear the date of January 1842. They somehow or other found leisure to immortalise still further "Lorie," the parrot, and "Cairnach," the terrier, as well as "Islay," "Dandie Dinmont," and the stately and graceful "Eos," while two questions of primary importance occupied their minds. What name was to be given to the "Heir of England"? Who were to be his god-fathers and godmothers? "Mr. Punch" obligingly came to their assistance in an article entitled, "What



THE PRINCESS ROYAL (EMPRESS FREDERICK) AND KING  
EDWARD VII. (AT FIVE MONTHS OLD)

AFTER A PAINTING BY SIR W. ROSS, PUBLISHED  
NOVEMBER 9, 1842



## Possible Names and God-Parents

shall be the Prince's name?" scarcely as happy or witty as usual, but doubtless honestly intended to point a moral in an age which treated pamphleteering seriously. "We are convinced of it," says the oracular writer, "it is with us a Shandean belief, possessing—inextinguishable—that not only the temper, but the virtues and the qualities of the Prince of Wales—of the next probable King of the United Kingdom will wholly and solely depend upon his Christian name. When the King of Prussia, on the 26th inst., makes answer to the Archbishop of Canterbury, little will he think—good, easy King!—what weal or woe he may promise to future generations. . . . Now for the Georges. The first and second were nobodies; the third loved an ugly wife and shoulder of mutton; and the fourth made a bow with a finer grace than any other gentleman in Europe. No; we have worn out the Georges. Gentle reader, what think you of King Lazarus? We are mightily smitten with this name . . . we advance the proposition that it may be indicative of an enlarged humanity in palaces. Our Lazarus the First shall heal the wounds of wretchedness—shall gather bloodless laurels in the hospital and workhouse—his ermine and purple shall make fellowship with rags of linsey-woolsey—he shall be a King enthroned and worshipped in the hearts of the indigent."

The rest of it is very poor stuff indeed. Needless to say, the future King of England (large-minded and large-hearted philanthropist as he has proved to be) was *not* named Lazarus, nor did the irrepressible "Uncle Ernest" (now King of Hanover), who put forward a pressing and inconvenient claim to the position at the last moment, figure amongst the sponsors, present or represented by

## The Boyhood of a Great King

deputy at the historic ceremonial of January 25, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, when the Prince of Wales was christened, receiving the baptismal names of Albert Edward, the first that of his father, the second that of his paternal grandfather, a choice which no one (except possibly the King of Hanover) could very well quarrel with.

The details of that magnificent ecclesiastical spectacle (in aranging the minutest details of which Prince Albert took an active part) are sufficiently well known, even to those who have not seen either the original or the constant reproductions of Sir George Hayter's commemorative painting. The naval and military knights of Windsor occupied the sides of the aisles, the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London, Norwich, Winchester, and Oxford stood in front of the font. The sponsors were H.R.H. Duchess of Kent (proxy for the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg), H.R.H. Duke of Cambridge, H.R.H. Princess Augusta of Cambridge\* (proxy for the Princess Sophia and H.R.H. Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg), and last, but not least, the King of Prussia. The water made use of had been brought from the Jordan. A calm serenity unusual to infants in the circumstances marked the behaviour of the Royal babe. An anthem in honour of the occasion had been composed by Sir George Elvey, but Prince Albert, who had a fondness for what is known as congregational singing, very happily deposed it in honour of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

In the evening a State banquet was given in St.

\* Born eighty-four years ago in Hanover, and married at Buckingham Palace on the fifth anniversary of Queen Victoria's Coronation Day, to the late Grand Duke Frederic William of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Princess Augusta is to-day the sole remaining living representative of Georgian royalty, the only survivor of the sponsors who stood by the baptismal font of King Edward VII.



## A Christening Dance

George's Hall, and after the banquet the Royal Christening Cake was placed in the Waterloo Chamber. As might be expected the christening of her eldest son finds prominent mention in the Queen's Journal. Writing of Frederic, William IV., King of Prussia, who had so obligingly (and in spite of the machinations of that political Pecksniff King Louis Philippe) consented to be the Prince of Wales's godfather, and by so doing had put an end to what promised to be a very pretty family quarrel, her Majesty says :

"The King is not taller than Albert and very fat.\* His features are small, but he has a pleasing countenance, not much hair and very little whiskers. He was in common morning costume, and complained much of appearing so before me. He is entertaining, agreeable, and witty, tells a thing so pleasantly, and is full of amusing anecdotes." . . . . "There was a full choral service at the christening. A special anthem had been composed by Mr. [afterwards Sir] George Elvey, for the occasion. On the Prince Consort being told of this, and asked when it should be sung, he answered, 'Not at all. No anthem. If the service ends by an anthem we shall all go out criticising the music. We will have something we all know—something in which we can all join—something devotional, The Hallelujah Chorus ; we shall all join in that,

\* The King's stoutness did not prevent his dancing, for the author of the "Private Life of Queen Victoria" (C. Pearson, London, 1901) tells us that "in 1842 when a party was assembled at Windsor in honour of the Prince of Wales's christening, dancing was started one evening for the amusement of young Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. There were only enough ladies present to make up a quadrille, which the queen danced with the King of Prussia. The evening wound up with a gay country-dance, a form of exercise to which the queen was devoted."

## The Boyhood of a Great King

with our hearts.' The Hallelujah Chorus ended the service accordingly." It was remarked at the time that the day of the Prince of Wales's christening was also Robert Burns's birthday,\* a compliment, accidental no doubt, to Scotland, from which he derived the title of Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron Renfrew, Great Steward of Scotland and Lord of the Isles.

"Mr. Punch's" account of the Royal christening is very dull reading, nor does he show a becoming sense of the nation's obligation to the corpulent but complaisant King of Prussia, whose doings are thus chronicled :

"The King of Prussia does not burn a rush-light, but he has a box of Congreves always ready on his bedroom chimney-piece.

"The King of Prussia always jumps out of bed as the clock strikes seven. His Majesty sleeps without a night-cap"—and so forth.

In due course the Court removed to Buckingham Palace, where a costume ball, on the most lavish scale, was arranged with the laudable object of relieving in some measure, however small, the prevailing distress.†

"We have organised it," Prince Albert wrote, "with a view of helping trade in London, which is greatly depressed. We are to represent Edward III. and Queen Philippa, and the whole Court is to appear in the Court dress of that period. The Duchess of Cambridge is to head a procession of one hundred and twenty persons, intended to represent France, Italy, and Spain."

\* Robert Burns was born at Alloway, January 25, 1759.

† Similar entertainments also took place at Stafford House and Apsley House.

## Junketing and Joking

The memory of this gorgeous *fête* of the spring of 1842, is perpetuated by a bulky volume, portraying in colours heightened with gold and silver the costumes worn by "King Edward III." (Prince Albert) and "Queen Philippa" (Queen Victoria), and all their principal guests including "Anne of Britanny" (the Duchess of Cambridge)\* and her daughter, the then youthful and still unmarried Princess Augusta, who as "Princess Claude" was attired in "blue edged with azure and embroidered with fleur-de-lys."† Before entering the ball-room the Queen and Prince Consort are said to have visited the nursery of their children,‡ but the Prince of Wales, then only five months old, can scarcely have been expected to retain any impression of even such a vision of surpassing magnificence as this. He has, however, inherited, in no small degree, his father's love of fun and keen sense of humour, and no one would have appreciated more heartily the clever literary practical joke which the "Plantagenet" ball gave rise to. Let one of his authors—the late Lord Houghton, then plain Richard Monckton-Milnes (the other was Charles Buller), tell the story of the inception of this unrivalled *jeu d'esprit* in his own words :§

\* On the occasion of the first jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 which, as a nonagenarian, she lived to celebrate, the late Duchess of Cambridge showed to some of her guests the slightly faded, but still handsome robe of crimson velvet "with an underskirt of gold brocade and jewelled stole," which had been so much discussed and admired five and forty years before.

† The Grand Duchess Dowager of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and the Baroness Burdett-Coutts are now, in all probability, almost the sole survivors of those who "danced and costumed" in the halcyon days of 1842.

‡ See *post*, p. 122.

§ "Monographs: Personal and Social," by Lord Houghton. London: John Murray, 1873, pp. 239-240.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“It was supposed to be a debate in the French Chamber of Deputies on the preceding day, reported by express in the *Morning Chronicle*, originating in an interpellation of M. Berryer, to the effect—‘Whether the French Ambassador in England had been invited to the *bal masqué* which is to be given by the haughty descendant of the Plantagenets for the purpose of awakening the long-buried griefs of France in the disasters of Cressy and Poitiers, and the loss of Calais.’ This speech, by Buller, is an excellent imitation of a great orator’s manner. Though I remember protesting against the grotesqueness of the demand ‘Whether M. de Saint Aulaire was going with his attachés, with bare feet and halters round their necks, representing the unfortunate Burgesses.’ It concluded with the declaration, ‘It is on the banks of the Rhine that the cannon of France ought to accompany the dancers of St. James’s. It is by taking the Balearic Isles that we should efface the recollections of Agincourt.’ I followed in the name of M. de Lamartine, reproving the speaker for talking of the ‘vilification of France,’ and saying France could well afford to leave to each people its own historical traditions—‘Ah! let them have their splendid *guinguette*—that people at once so grave and frivolous. Let them dance as they please, as long as the great mind of France calmly and nobly traverses the world.’ Lamartine was answered by M. de Tocqueville (also mine) finding fault with the ball chiefly as a repudiation of the democratic idea, and a mournful reaction against the spirit of the times; saying with a sad and grave impartiality: ‘We too have erred—we too have danced and costumed—the heirs of the throne of July have sanctioned this frivolity, but there was no

## An International Hoax

quadrille of the Heroes of Fontenoy !' M. Guizot (Buller) closed the discussion by stating that Lord Aberdeen had given the most satisfactory explanations—that the Queen of England desired to educate her people by a series of archæological entertainments, but that in deference to the susceptibilities of France Monsieur de Saint Aulaire would represent the Virgin of Domremy—he would go as Joan of Arc. It seems incredible that what was meant for a political squib should have turned out a successful hoax. It was discussed with gravity in the Clubs: and at the ball itself Sir Robert Peel told me, with great satisfaction, that Sir James Graham had rushed into his private room in Whitehall Gardens, with the paper in his hand, exclaiming, 'There is the devil to pay in France about this foolish ball.' But the Press was the most deluded victim: the *Irish Pilot* remarked that 'the fact of so slight an occasion having given rise to so grave a discussion is the strongest evidence of the state of feeling in France towards this country.' The *Dumfries Courier* commented at much length on this as 'one of the most erratic and ridiculous scenes that ever lowered the dignity of a deliberative assembly.' The *Semaphore de Marseilles* translated the article into French as a faithful report, and the *Commerce* indignantly protested against the taste for a masquerade going so far as 'to allow the panoply of a woman so cruelly sacrificed to British pride to be worn on such an occasion; others formally denied that the genuine armour had ever been sent from Paris."

By a strange coincidence almost at the same moment a Parisian newspaper the *National* was responsible for the following article on the subject

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of the Prince of Wales which is quoted in sober seriousness by the *Times* :

“The Government of Queen Victoria and even her dynasty have, at this moment, to contend against a kind of opposition which was unexpected, and which in France would appear exceedingly droll. The greater part of the Anglican clergy pretend that the young Prince of Wales having been baptized by a dissenting Minister (*prêtre dissident*) is therefore incapable of ever becoming King of England. In England the head of the State is at the same time, head of the Church, and the clergy therefore think that the national church would lose its priority, and even be destroyed if at the head of its hierarchy were to be placed a Prince who had not received orthodox baptism. The Bishop of London and his clergy have already protested against the legitimacy of the succession of the Prince of Wales to the throne ; the Bishop of Winchester has followed the example, and not a single clergyman of his diocese has failed to sign his protests. The whole University of Oxford has expressed itself in the same way, and it is announced that the Bishop of Exeter is earnestly and successfully getting up a similar demonstration.”

The ecclesiastical storm in a tea-cup described by the *National*, had no more foundation in fact than the debate in the French Chamber evolved from the fertile brains of “Charley” Buller and “Dicky” Milnes, but a story of the kind had been current eighty years before on the occasion of the baptism of George IV.

After the ball comes a brief period of rest and fresh air at Claremont, and the first number of the *Illustrated London News* (Saturday, May 14, 1842),

## Birthdays at Claremont

under the heading of "The Court and Haut Ton," gives its readers the following information :

" Her Majesty and Prince Albert arrived in town on Monday afternoon [May 9] in an open carriage and four, escorted by a party of Hussars from Claremont. The equerries-in-waiting, Colonel Arbuthnot and Colonel Wylde, followed in a chariot and four. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal occupied another carriage, and the Dowager Lady Lyttelton, Lady-in-Waiting, and Lord Byron, Lord-in-Waiting, were in the last carriage. . . . A pair of Shetland ponies, intended for the young Prince of Wales's pony phaeton, arrived at the Aberdeen steam-packet wharf, St. Katherine's, last week. A pair of beautiful Pegu ponies from Madras have also been sent to Her Majesty by her Anglo-Indian subjects for the young Prince of Wales." The Queen's birthday was kept "officially" in London on May 19, but the family gathering of five days later took place, as was then customary, at Claremont. The new pictorial venture shows abundant promise of future success. On May 28 a picture of the Queen and Prince of Wales appears, heading an article entitled: "A Scene in the Nursery at Claremont." "Our young and gracious sovereign's twenty-third birthday," writes the contemporary chronicler, "has been celebrated with less pomp than usual; but if the felicitations were more tacit, they were far more general, heartfelt, and attractive. The concourse flocking to the Drawing-Room, Her Majesty, no doubt, foresaw, particularly after her signal acts of hospitality, would be immense, and Her Majesty, therefore, set apart a day at Claremont to celebrate her birthday in the charms of domestic retirement, after the fatigues of its more ceremonious celebration

## The Boyhood of a Great King

when the whole of the *beau monde* overflowed at the Palace. Besides, there was our future King—Ich Dien (*sic*)—and his pretty sister, who had got a glance at the Royal Edward and Philippa, on their way to the masque, as they laid in their cradles of state, the sounds of revelry temptingly broke in upon their gentle repose, conjuring the lively *mille et une nuits* dreams of infancy. And why should they not have their holiday and their Masque? Her Majesty gave them the holiday in the charming retreats of Claremont, and their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert and the Duchess of Kent prepared an agreeable surprise for her Majesty's waking on her birthday—and for the infant scions of Royalty—namely, a masque, *au petit pied*. Accordingly, on Tuesday, the Prince of Wales and his Royal Sister at earliest morn, suddenly appeared before the Royal Mother, dressed as natives of that picturesque country of Tyrol, where, as Hofer proved, peasants become heroes.

“But far be it from us to intrude further upon the secrecy of such happy domestic scenes, although the feelings of all fathers and mothers amongst Her Majesty's most loving and loyal of all subjects, cannot be prevented following her in thought and with heartfelt applause and gratulation into the retreat of such domestic felicity. Sully, we believe it was who said, that *Henri le Grand* never appeared greater in the eyes of good men than when the pompous ambassador of Spain found him on all fours playing with his children mounted on his back. Queen Victoria will never appear more exalted in the world's opinion than when each side of the picture is thus revealed—the great Queen and stateswoman in the gorgeous palace—the young, lovely, and virtuous mother amidst the pure joys of sylvan retreat and



## Lady Lyttelton's Appointment

domestic relaxation. Our artist has chosen for illustration one of those happy moments of maternal life when the magnificence and etiquette of the Queen is put aside by womanly tenderness for the expression of a mother's love." In the accompanying wood-cut (apparently by J. R. Abbott) Her Majesty is leaning back in one of the ponderous arm-chairs of the period, holding up her hand to attract the attention of the sprightly child-prince, attired in a robe adorned with a plume of feathers and a singularly unbecoming closely fitting lace cap. In spite of stormy weather, the birthday at Claremont seems to have been a joyous one, and very little apparently escaped the notice of the contributor to "The Court and Haut Ton." As early as 7 A.M. a serenade by the band of the Coldstream Guards began beneath the windows of the Queen's bed-chamber, a German air composed by Prince Albert figuring in the programme. Merry peals were rung at intervals during the day, and "Uncle Mensdorff" (the common relative of both the Queen and Prince Albert), accompanied by his four sons, was amongst the guests who dined in the library, the table being decorated with "the Lion service of plate and the Warwick vases." The attack on the Queen, perpetrated by Francis not a week later, may be passed over. On June 10 we are told "The Dowager Lady Lyttelton,\* the preceptress of the Princess Royal, has been staying at Buckingham Palace during the last week, having entered on the

\* For over eight years (1842-1851) Sarah, Lady Lyttelton played an important part in the upbringing of the elder children of Queen Victoria. Sister of George, Lord Spencer, she was the niece of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, one of the most intellectual and, at the same time, most politically powerful ladies of the Court of George III. Since 1838, Lady Lyttelton had been one of Queen Victoria's Ladies-in-Waiting.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

duties of her new appointment. Her ladyship will principally reside in future at the palace."

A few days are passed at Windsor. On June 13 the return journey to London was made by railway, this being the Queen's first experience of the new method of locomotion, of which she was destined to have such a lengthy and varied experience,\* and in which up to the end of her life she took the deepest interest. Mr. John Pendleton says:† "The Queen made her first railway trip on the Great Western, with Dan Gooch (afterwards Sir Daniel Gooch) in charge of the engine. This was on Monday, June 13, 1842, when her Majesty returned from a sojourn at Windsor Castle by way of the Great Western Railway. The thing was very secret. The royal train consisted of the Phlegethon‡ engine and tender, drawing the royal saloon in the centre of two other saloon carriages, preceded by a second-class carriage and followed by three carriage trucks. The journey from Slough to Windsor was accomplished in twenty-five minutes."

Music and art still absorbed much of that portion of the Queen's leisure which could be spared from affairs of State, and the ever-increasing cares of the royal nurseries. Within a week of the railway

\* Up to this time, although the Great Western Railway had been opened for fully three years, the experiment was not considered safe by those in high places, as far as the person of the Queen was concerned. It is difficult to realise now the early prejudice against railway travelling. Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy, "the bravest of the brave" (who died the year before), could never be persuaded to enter a railway carriage (*vide* "The Three Dorset Captains at Trafalgar," p. 227). Fanny Kemble described the engine as "the She Dragon with white flying breath."

† *English Illustrated Magazine*, edited by Clement K. Shorter, July 1897, pp. 445-450.

‡ "Phlegethon" went to the "scrap-heap" in August 1887. Its fate is now much regretted at Paddington.

## Mendelssohn and the Queen

journey at Paddington the greatest of then living composers was welcomed by the Queen and Prince Albert at Buckingham Palace.

In the life of Mendelssohn, translated from the German of W. A. Lampadius,\* the actual date of the great composer's memorable visit to Queen Victoria is placed in doubt. The editor and some of the late Queen's biographers have apparently overlooked Mendelssohn's letter to his mother of June 21, 1842,† in which he not only clearly mentions the exact day of his going to see her Majesty, but gives by far the best and most concise account of what took place. It runs as follows: "Add to this (the crowd of people at Exeter Hall) the pretty and most charming Queen Victoria, who looks so youthful, and is so gently courteous and gracious, who speaks such good German, and who knows all my music so well; the four books of songs without words, and those with words and the symphony and the 'Hymn of Praise.' Yesterday evening I was sent for by the Queen, who was almost alone with Prince Albert, and who seated herself near the piano and made me play to her, first seven of the 'songs without words,' then the serenade, two impromptus on 'Rule Britannia,' Lützow's 'Wilde Jagd,' and 'Gaudeamus igitur.' The latter was somewhat difficult but remonstrance was out of the question, and as they gave the themes, of course it was my duty to play them. Then the splendid grand gallery in Buckingham Palace, where they drank tea, and where the two boars of Paul Potter are hanging, and a good many pictures

\* "Life of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy," edited by W. L. Gage. London: W. Reeves, 1876, p. 76.

† "Letters of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy from 1833 to 1847." Translated by Lady Wallace. London: Longmans, 1863, p. 281.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

which pleased me well." This is all Mendelssohn says on a subject which must, for him, have been one of no common interest, and of which his knowledge was, at any rate, first hand. Mr. Gage, however, informs us that as he entered the Queen's room "she asked his pardon for the somewhat disorderly appearance of the apartment, and began to rearrange the articles with her own hands," in which Mendelssohn gallantly offered his assistance. Some parrots, whose cages hung in the room, she herself carried into the next apartment; in which Mendelssohn helped her also. He also says that after the Queen had, in fear and trembling, sung to the eminent *maestro*, she said, "I can do better; ask Lablache if I cannot; but I am afraid of you." On that very night (June 20) we are told "Miss Burdett Coutts gave a brilliant ball and supper on Monday evening in Stratton Street which was attended by the *élite* of the *haut ton*. Lord Claude Hamilton, who was erroneously designated as the successful suitor for the hand of the wealthy heiress, has gone on a continental tour."

July 19 is the birthday of the Princess Augusta, eldest daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who completed her twentieth year, and the Duke and Duchess on this interesting occasion received a select circle to luncheon. "The party assembled shortly after two, and broke up at half-past five o'clock. Her Majesty the Queen Dowager came in the morning from Bushey to pay a congratulatory visit to her youthful and amiable niece."

The London season is over, and the Queen, Prince Albert, Lady Lyttelton, and the royal infants are once more at breezy Claremont where the omniscient compiler of "The Court and Haut Ton" assures

## At Restful Claremont

us “the Court generally abandons a great portion of its regal state. The Princess Royal may be seen trotting about the grounds on her little pony, or playing on a large cloth spread on the lawn—the Prince of Wales sprawling about, in vain endeavours to reach the boundary of his dominions, that is to say the said table-cloth. The Dowager Lady Lyttelton maintains a constant surveillance over the royal children.” A few days later the King of Prussia’s christening present arrives, and is described with all the minuteness it merits. “The object of art which excited the greatest interest at Berlin, is the present which the King of Prussia sends to the Prince of Wales as a godfather’s gift. This gift is a shield, whose material is gold and gems, with every possible resource of ornament which the art of the goldsmith offers. Stuler is the artist and his graceful inventions for ornaments exceed even those of Schinkel. The gold and gems, however, are secondary to the beautiful designs for the shield, which are by Cornelius, being the first important work he has executed in Berlin. Its form is circular, and the subjects chiefly religious, containing the principal mysteries of the Christian religion.”

The Queen and Prince Albert go for a short yachting excursion, but the little ones at home are always in their thoughts. On September 4 Her Majesty writes in her journal: “On board the *Royal George* yacht, September 4, 1842.—Received from Lady Lyttelton good accounts of our little children.” On the previous day the British public had learned with equal satisfaction that “The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal are in excellent health and have taken their usual airings accompanied by the Dowager Lady Lyttelton.” On

## The Boyhood of a Great King

September 24, the Queen and Prince Albert return to Windsor from their first expedition to Scotland.

On November 9 Lord Mayor Humphrey proposes the health of the Heir Apparent in the presence of the assembled citizens at Guildhall, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Stanley (not yet the "Rupert of Debate") and Lord John Russell, being all amongst his guests. "This day," said the newly invested Chief Magistrate, "being the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Wales will long be memorable in the annals of the country." The menu was worthy of the occasion. It consisted of "250 tureens of real turtle, containing 5 pints each; 200 bottles of sherbet; 6 dishes of fish; 30 entrées; 4 boiled turkeys and oysters; 60 roasted pullets; 60 dishes of fowls; 46 dishes of capons; 50 French pies; 60 pigeon pies; 53 hams (ornamented); 43 tongues; 2 quarters of house-lamb; 2 barons of beef; 3 rounds of beef; 2 stewed rumps of beef; 13 sirloins, rumps and ribs of beef; 6 dishes of asparagus; 69 dishes of mashed and other potatoes; 44 dishes of shell fish; 4 ditto of prawns; 140 jellies; 50 blancmanges; 40 dishes of tarts (creamed); 30 ditto of orange and other tourtes; 40 ditto of almond pastry; 20 Chantilly baskets; 60 dishes of mince pies; 56 salads. The Removes—80 roast turkeys; 6 leverets; 80 pheasants; 24 geese; 40 dishes of partridges; 15 ditto wild fowl; 2 peafowls. Dessert—100 pine-apples from 1 lb. to 3 lbs. each; 200 dishes of hot-house grapes; 250 ice creams; 50 dishes of apples; 100 ditto of pears; 60 ornamented Savoy cakes; 75 plates of walnuts; 80 of dried fruits and preserves; 50 ditto of preserved ginger; 60 ditto of rout cakes and chips; 46 ditto of brandied cherries; 4 dishes of Selim's (Captain White's) true Indian curries. The last is

## A First Birthday

quite new to the gourmands of the City, and was much appreciated."

On the evening of the previous day Mr. W. C. Ross had had an audience of the Queen in order to submit to the Queen and Prince Albert a proof impression of an engraving of the Prince of Wales and Princess Royal taken from a drawing executed by Sir William Ross at the express command of the Queen. If there was any lack of enthusiasm in the West End, it was assuredly amply compensated for both in the City and at Windsor. "The illumination in town," says the *Times*, "on the first anniversary of the birthday of the Prince of Wales was by no means general. Several of the club houses were illuminated and a few warrant holders exhibited flares."

As far as the loyal and "Royal Borough" is concerned, we learn that on November 9 "Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert took walking exercise both in the morning and afternoon. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent paid a congratulatory visit to her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert on the first anniversary of the birth of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, whose birthday was celebrated at Windsor with great rejoicing. In the forenoon the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, under the command of Colonel Reid, and the Grenadier Guards, under the command of Colonel Thornton, marched into the Home Park, and fired a *feu de joie*. The regiments afterwards marched past in review order. In the evening most of the tradespeople illuminated. The following is the programme of the music performed at the Palace by the band of the Grenadier Guards: *Pas Redouble*, specially composed by her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, to celebrate the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

first anniversary of the birth of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Duo 'Quis est Homo' ('Stabat Mater'), Rossini; Waltz 'Homage to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,' composed expressly by Rudolph Sibold; Grand March, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's (Costa); National Divertimento, arranged expressly by Rudolph Sibold and Galop (M. S. Labitzky)."

If the railway was safe for the Queen, the Heir Apparent may very well encounter the same risk, now rapidly diminishing in the minds of the British people. The Queen and Prince Albert had resolved to pay a visit to the Duke of Wellington at the official abode of the Warden of the Cinque Ports—Walmer Castle, once the favourite abode of Pitt. On November 10 the whole party (with every available precaution against danger) journeyed from Slough to Paddington, posting then to Walmer by way of Canterbury, the Duke meeting his guests at Sandwich.

*The Court Circular* announces on November 11, that "The Queen and Prince Albert accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal and suite arrived by a special train at the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway yesterday morning from Windsor Castle. 'The Prince' was the name of the engine which drew the august party to the metropolis on their way to Walmer Castle."\*

The "royal infants" were carried across the drawbridge to their apartments, and it was duly announced that "The portion of the fortress appropriated for the exclusive use of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, the Dowager

\* The Court Newsman was mistaken. "Prince" was not constructed till August 1846 and was broken up in 1870.





SCENE IN WINDSOR FOREST, DECEMBER 1842



## The Prince of Wales at Walmer

Lady Lyttelton and the attendants upon the Prince and Princess, are the outworks, or the north tower, with the windows facing a northerly direction. Four rooms have been thus set apart for the department of the royal nursery."

"Mr. Punch" in his happiest vein makes merry of these incidents, and declares that "The room chosen for the royal nursery is generally subjected to squalls. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal has been presented with a wooden spade and has employed a portion of her leisure in digging small holes in the sand, while her royal brother ('little Wales' as he is familiarly called) has looked on at the operation with infantine interest."

On the return journey (December 3) the Queen and her party "posted" through Canterbury, Rochester, Dartford, and Blackheath. After passing through Greenwich, Deptford, New Cross, and Peckham they travelled to Windsor by Great Western Railway. Meanwhile a subject had attracted the grave attention of the *Times* (November 25): "A short time ago," writes a correspondent, "a curiously wrought mat of 2311 variegated pieces made by a poor blind widow named Sarah Drew was forwarded to the Secretary of State accompanied with a written request that he would cause it to be presented to her Majesty for the young Prince of Wales. The following reply from the Home Office, has been received since by the donor :

'Whitehall, *November 10.*

'MADAM,—I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of a mat sent by you to the Home Office as a present to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and I am further requested to inform you that the same has

## The Boyhood of a Great King

been duly forwarded by him to the Queen at Windsor.

‘I remain, Madam, yours,

‘S. M. PHILLIPS.

‘To Mrs. Drew, opposite Bartlett’s nursery, Sidmouth.’ ”

The very name of Sidmouth evidently touched a tender chord in the Queen’s heart. The Prince of Wales’s second Christmas was at hand. We are told it was kept up at Windsor in good Old English style, although on account of its falling on a Sunday no guests were invited. The royal dinner-table exhibited a noble baron of beef, and the servants were, according to custom, regaled with toast and ale. The marriage of the Princess Clementina of Orleans \* to Prince Augustus Saxe-Coburg of Cohari, was now announced as decided on.

It was now time for the question of the education of the “royal infants,” as “Haut Ton” insisted on calling them, to engross the attention of their father and mother, indeed a discussion concerning it had commenced as far back as 1840, after the birth of the Princess Royal. The whole subject, which is as interesting as it is important, will be dealt with in the next chapter.

The early part of 1843 was spent at Claremont, whither the Princess Royal travelled in the same carriage with the Queen and Prince Albert without any nurse or attendant whatever. The Prince of Wales, however, seems to have remained at Windsor.

\* Princess Clementina is now (1906) the only survivor of the numerous children of King Louis Philippe and Queen Marie Amélie. Her sister Louise was in 1842 the second wife of the “Uncle Leopold” of Queen Victoria’s correspondence. Born only two years after Waterloo and now on the eve of becoming a nonagenarian she is to-day a living link between the reign of George III. and that of King Edward VII.



"VICTORIA"

DRAWING BY QUEEN VICTORIA OF PRINCESS ROYAL, JANUARY 1843



## “Punch” and his “Pencillings”

The Court returns to Windsor at the end of January, and it was not till Tuesday, March 7, that it “removed to Buckingham Palace, the Princess Royal travelling with the Queen and Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales being accompanied by Dowager Lady Lyttelton.” “Mr. Punch” once more appears to take a kindly interest in the Heir Apparent. In His Pencilling LXIV., entitled, “The First Tooth,” the venerable Archbishop of Canterbury is depicted in the act of presenting a row of toy soldiers to the Prince—Queen Victoria triumphantly pointing to the fresh development. The caricature is badly drawn by Kenny Meadows, who gives the infant Prince a preposterous cap surmounted by three feathers. Then we have a “Royal Nursery Circular,” from which the following items are culled :

“The Prince of Wales was safely delivered of a tooth one day last week, when Sir Charles Ross, the miniature painter, received instructions for drawing it.

“The Prince of Wales was rather fretful on Thursday last, and Black Rod was ordered to be in attendance. The aid of Black Rod was, however, dispensed with.

“On the anniversary of the Queen’s marriage an entertainment was given in the royal nursery. Lollipops were laid for two, and in the evening there was an exhibition of the magic lantern.”

A week later (March 14) the Queen Dowager, who takes the deepest interest in all that concerns her husband’s successor and her children, comes to see them at Buckingham Palace. On April 1 following, the *Illustrated London News* (now nearing its own first birthday) contains a second portrait of the Prince of Wales, in which he is depicted

## The Boyhood of a Great King

standing by a sofa, with his head resting on a cushion, and wearing a large hat with a plume of feathers, a necklace, sash and lace frock. It is stated to be a companion to a much better-known portrait of the late Comte de Paris, which had previously appeared in the same journal. Below it are the following verses :

“ Child of the Queen and people—for love’s bond  
Bids *them*, no less than *her*, deem thee their own—  
Now thou art but a baby of the throne,  
The petted beauty of the fair and fond ;  
The sun of childhood shining in thy heart,  
While its light frolic plays upon thy cheek,  
And thou amongst the delicate and weak  
Of the World’s flowers. Years, that strength impart,  
Shall into manhood thy brave limbs unfold.  
May Heaven, too, cast thy soul in honour’s mould  
That so, unfurled for greatness, the fair sails  
Of thy life-ship may fill with fav’ring gales  
Of popular esteem ;—and pride untold  
Make England glory in her Prince of Wales.

“ Then, when thy years have unto fulness grown,  
And thou art as a tree—Oh ! may thy fruit  
Be worthy of the rich and noble root  
That thou didst spring from ! Grace thou thy throne  
Like thy young mother ! So much lustre shed,  
To shine beyond the jewels in thy crown !  
Be like thy sire, when love shall bid thee wed,  
And wear the virtues which they both hand down ;  
So shall the Nation bless thee for thy worth,  
In manhood, as it blesseth thy childhood’s birth ;  
So shall thy fame to other nations ring,  
And thou unto thy trusting subjects cling—  
And then, above all other kings of Earth,  
Will make Old England glory in her King.

On the same day (a very unfortunate date) an announcement appears that a rumour is current in Court circles that “ a separate establishment will shortly be formed for His Royal Highness the Prince





Fig. 100 1843

Victoria, 100, 1843

# TWO PORTRAITS OF PRINCESS VICTORIA (PRINCESS ROYAL), AFTERWARDS EMPERESS FREDERICK OF GERMANY

ORIGINAL ETCHING BY QUEEN VICTORIA, FEBRUARY 10, 1843



## A Ridiculous Rumour

of Wales. There is every reason to believe that a number of domestics will shortly be put to look after the young Prince not in any way connected with Her Majesty's household."

Such a unique opportunity must not be missed, and exactly one week later (April 7, 1843), we are favoured with :

### "THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOUSEHOLD.

"The public will see with infinite satisfaction that the Prince of Wales is about to have a separate household. Some have imagined that a baby-house is alluded to, but we have ascertained that such is not the case, and the following may be relied on as being as accurate a list as it is possible to obtain of the projected establishment :

"Master of the Rocking Horse  
Comptroller of the Juvenile Vagaries  
Sugar Stick in Waiting  
Captain of the Tin Guard  
Black Rod in Ordinary  
Master of the Trap Ordnance  
Clerk of the Pea Shooter  
Assistant Battledore  
Lord Privy Shuttlecock  
Quartermaster-General of the Oranges.

"It is not yet decided by whom these offices are to be filled, but there is no doubt His Royal Highness will manifest considerable discretion in making the appointments for the 'separate household' which has been so properly assigned to him."

On April 29, 1843, the Queen's second daughter and third child was born at Buckingham Palace, to be later known in the history of the Victorian Royal family as "Princess Alice." The *Illustrated*

## The Boyhood of a Great King

*London News* once more burst into poetry, and favoured its readers with an ode commencing :

“ Sing, gladly sing !  
Let voice and string  
The royal birth proclaim.  
It comes in peace,  
Let discord cease,  
And blow the trumpet of fame,”

and ending with the lines :

“ And she—the royal mother—wife  
To one, but master of all hearts,  
May she be blessed in the life  
Whose dawn breaks not o’er nation’s strife,  
But e’en imparts  
Another sigh, like the prismatic zone  
Which binds the water cloud,  
That nothing gloomy ever may enshroud  
Hearts—her love-mates—people, or her throne.”

Mrs. Lilly, who had acted as nurse on the occasion of the birth of the Princess Royal and Prince of Wales, and now almost a national institution, was again in attendance. The Princess was reported to be a fine healthy child.

The addition thus made to the ranks of the Queen’s children became the signal for a mild outburst of caricatures for one of which T. McLean, 26 Haymarket, is responsible. It was headed, “A First Lesson on the Welsh Harp,” and in it we have the Queen with Princess Alice in arms, and Prince Albert leaning over her chair, with Eos, a parrot and other canine pets in the foreground. The Prince of Wales sits in an impossible baby-chair, a grim nurse holding him by his sash while he plays on a gigantic harp.

In another, facetiously entitled, “1855—A Scene in Perspective,” an endless procession of royal olive branches is foreshadowed, while in a third



THE INTERIOR OF "PRINCE ALBERT'S STOCK"

A TOY-PICTURE PUBLISHED ABOUT 1844



## “Tender Annuals”

to be known as “Tender Annuals,” the same subject is dealt with by the aid of an equally large number of miniature cucumber frames. In a fourth Prince Albert is depicted teaching his son his letters from a lengthy pictorial scroll :

A anticorn law leagues bother the nation  
B at which poor John Bull looks in great tribulation  
C stands for the Church, Constitution and Crown  
D stands for Daniel who would pull them all down

\* \* \* \* \*

I an Income Tax a terrible thing  
K cries kick it down when you will be King ;

and so forth; while Queen Victoria with Princess Alice in her arms, and the Princess Royal at her knee, looks on approvingly. It was at this time that colour-prints of the Queen, Prince Albert and their children walking, riding and driving, either at Windsor or in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, achieved a sudden and widespread popularity. Many of them, like the Windsor Pear and Prince Albert's Stock, were made amusing by some “practical” feature.\* The newly born Princess was baptized in due course on June 6. “Mr. Punch” just about this time manages to fall foul of the grant of arms to the Prince of Wales which had disturbed the equanimity of Mr. Charles Greville.† We are told that : “Among the items of extravagance for the past year is one of £55 13s. 6d. for altering the Prince of Wales's Arms. We presume this must refer to the necessary enlargement of the sleeves of all His Royal Highness's frocks. It is a curious fact that as the sleeve comes down only an inch below the shoulder, His<sup>\*</sup> Royal Highness is literally out of elbows.”

A little later it is announced that “Some sensa-

\* See *ante*, p. 85.

† See *ante*, p. 109.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

tion has been caused in the royal household by an order recently issued by command of her Majesty. It is well known that the Queen and Prince Albert are early risers and every morning at 9 o'clock they invariably attend prayers in the chapel at which the ladies and women of the bed-chamber, maids-of-honour and all domestics are strictly enjoined to attend, excepting only those who are, as it is termed, in 'close waiting.' On Sunday also it is expected that all in the royal household attend Divine service twice in the new chapel."

The political outlook once more becomes gloomy. A projected visit to Ireland has to be abandoned on account of the disturbed state of the country, and another proposed trip to Walmer also falls through. In July Prince Albert goes alone to Bristol (in the new and ornate saloon provided by the Directors of the Great Western Railway for the use of the Queen)\* to witness the launch of the *Great Britain* steamship which was expected to effect something very like a commercial revolution. The following brief record of a Sunday at Windsor (August 1843) reminds one forcibly of Fanny Burney's small talk of half a century previously :

"Windsor, Sunday, August 6.—This morning Her Majesty and Prince Albert attended Divine service at the chapel in the park. In the afternoon Her Majesty and Prince Albert, with the whole of the distinguished guests and suite, walked out on the grand promenade on the Terrace. The bands of the 1st Lifeguards and the 1st Coldstream Guards were present and the attendance was very numerous. The Prince of Wales, the Princess Alice

\* Now relegated along with other sacred relics of the broad gauge to the historical museum at Swindon.





THE QUEEN AND HER TWO ELDER CHILDREN, 1843

AFTER SIR E. LANDSEER



## A Marine Excursion

and the Princess Royal appeared at the windows of the Victoria Tower. Amongst the guests were the King of Hanover, Prince Alexander of Orange, &c."

During the following week the Queen and Prince Albert go to Stowe, and the birthday of the latter on August 26 is the signal for the usual homely rejoicings at Windsor. A little later the Queen started with Prince Albert on a marine excursion to the beautiful west coast for which she always entertained an unfeigned admiration. Her Majesty did not land either at Weymouth or Portland, but the Mayor of Weymouth \* paid his dutiable respects to the Queen on board the royal yacht.

The now forgotten "Rebecca" riots in Wales gave "Mr. Punch" one more opportunity of acting the candid friend and an amusing article appears which John Leech heads with a delightful vignette portrait of the two-year-old Heir Apparent.

### "THE STATE OF WALES.

"We have been given to understand that the Dowager Lady Lyttelton has not been insensible to the necessity of explaining to the Prince of Wales the unhappy condition of the locality from which his Royal Highness derives his title. Her ladyship, we believe, introduced the subject in the following delicate manner: 'Ah do they agitate his little principality, and ruffle his little feathers for him, a dear? Does Miss Becca pull down the nasty turnpikes?'—and so forth."

These remarks did not presumably vary the daily routine for which Lady Lyttelton was responsible at the Brighton Pavilion, where the Prince of Wales

\* Mr. A. W. Horsford.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

and his sisters had gone for the benefit of the pure sea air in the efficacy of which both the Queen and her husband were always firm believers.

The pilgrimage by sea to the Château d'Eu, undertaken doubtless by her Majesty from motives of high expedience, does not come within the scope of this book. Louis Philippe was never popular in England, and the caricatures it gave rise to were not characterised by the usual kindly spirit shown to the young Queen. It is to be hoped that H. H. their author was not H. B. Some very beautiful illustrations of "the great picnic" (which proved much more successful and enjoyable than was expected) appeared both in London and Paris. "Mr. Punch" proved quite equal to the occasion. There was no sting of bitterness in the sketch (possibly by Thackeray) of "Young France" (the Comte de Paris in uniform) and "Young England" (the Prince of Wales—with the traditional gigantic plume of feathers), or in the dialogue :

"YOUNG ENGLAND. Ah ! *parlez-vous* is that you ?

"YOUNG FRANCE. Oui, Monsieur Vales.

"YOUNG E. What, you want to play at soldiers again do you ? You've forgotten Waterloo, *parlez-vous* ?

"YOUNG F. No Mons Vales. I thank you for reminding me of that injury.

"YOUNG E. Pshaw ! injury—has not it made us friends, *parlez-vous* ?

"YOUNG F. Visiting acquaintances if you please, Mons Vales. Ah ! there is another wrong never to be forgotten.

"YOUNG E. What do you mean ?

"YOUNG F. Remember Eu !

## Brighton and its Breezes

YOUNG E. I was not there—it was my mamma, the Queen, who visited your grandad.

“YOUNG F. True—but that devastating invasion of my native land—my beloved France—can never be expunged from my memory, or that of the Editor of the *National*. Listen to the inquiries of that noble but parsimonious patriot, ‘What has become of the gigantic cheeses which the King (“my grandad”) imported from England?’ I make the same inquiry. Let your mamma answer it.”

A patriotic French paper had preferred against the *Roi Bourgeois* the grave indictment of having imported sundry Cheshire cheeses and barrels of porter for the delectation of his guests.

The health of the Prince of Wales in the first years of his life was reported to be delicate, and the air of Brighton seems to have done wonders for him. The Queen and Prince Albert joined their children there at the conclusion of their French visit, bringing with them the Prince de Joinville, whose face and whiskers always proved a fortune to caricaturists on both sides of the Channel. Later in the year it was whispered that the Prince of Wales was to return there, and Mr. Punch makes the following comments on the current report :

“It is stated in the papers that if the Prince of Wales goes for his health to Brighton, two companies of Grenadiers will be sent to attend on his Royal Highness. *Punch* begs leave to propose that the company of his own Granny dear—the Duchess of Kent of course—would be far more conducive to the Prince of Wales’s comfort and convenience.”

The “Haut Ton” items of news from Brighton are sufficiently amusing :

“At 7.30 on Saturday morning, September 9,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Prince Albert rode to Kemptown unattended, and bathed in the sea from one of Cheeseman's machines.

"September 11.—The Prince of Wales and his royal sisters take a carriage airing in the morning to Shoreham, and in the afternoon to Rottingdeane. The Princess Royal and Princess Alice will, it is expected, leave for Windsor next Tuesday on which day their royal parents are expected to return from Ostend. The Prince of Wales, it is said, will remain at Brighton for some time."

Prince Albert is now (October 1843) sufficiently occupied with the cares of his Flemish farm\* at Windsor, and some salutary reforms in the uniform of the British soldier. Mr. Punch accordingly makes the Prince of Wales figure in two amusing and quite innocuous cartoons. In the first he is seen in his father's studio, while the unlucky "infantry hat" (doubtless a much-needed and highly sanitary improvement) is poetically addressed :

" And look at the beautiful Infantry hat  
Did aught ever bear a resemblance to that ?  
With its side ventilation, intended, 'tis said,  
To keep all the soldiers quite cool in the head."

A week or so later appeared "Prince Albert the British Farmer." He is made to wear a smock-frock emblazoned with the royal arms, while the Prince of Wales munches a turnip, and the Queen gives milk hot from the cow to one of her daughters.

The birthday of the Prince of Wales was *fêted* this year [1843] at Windsor. The following account is given of the proceedings : "This being the anniversary of the Prince of Wales's birthday the 1st

\* The Flemish farm, Windsor Great Park, originally established in 1798 by George III., was neglected by George IV., taken up again by William IV. and finally made a great success of by Prince Albert.

## Another Birthday

Regiment of Lifeguards under the command of Colonel Hall, and the 2nd Battalion of Grenadier Guards, under Commander Home, marched into the Home Park at 10 o'clock this morning. The Lifeguards formed the right angle and the Grenadier Guards the centre and left angle immediately below the south Terrace. Shortly afterwards the Queen and Prince Albert, leading the Prince of Wales, came on the grounds by a subterranean passage to the Grand Parterre, accompanied by Prince and Princess Hohenlohe, and their attendants. The troops presented arms, and the band played 'God save the Queen.' Her Majesty wore a green striped satin dress, with white bonnet, and the prince was dressed in his hunting costume. Colonel Home, the senior officer, took command of both regiments and gave the word to fire a *feu de joie*, which was done by the Grenadier Guards. After firing the third time both regiments ordered arms, caps off and gave three cheers. A poem was published on the occasion of the anniversary, concluding with the three following verses :

' But then the hope of Brunswick's line,  
Whom a great Empire fondly hails ;  
Whose sun will rise when ours decline,  
We greet thee Albert, Prince of Wales.  
The sword of the Black Prince be thine,  
And thine Great Henry's kindly soul,  
To rule our line with sway benign,  
And know none save the law's control.

' Bright is the scene—the royal flag  
In prouder blazon seems displayed—  
The cannon roars—and flies the stag  
Startled through hoary winter's glades  
Peer and peasant,—castle, cot—  
All bless the royal Mother's smiles ;  
Less happy in her sovereign lot  
Than as matron of the British Isles.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

May duty guide the Monarch-Child,<sup>1</sup>  
May science o'er his boyhood glow.  
May manhood's passion stern and wild  
Ne'er strew for him a path of woe  
Blessing and blessed, may give old age—  
And when from life his name departs  
May it shine out in history's page  
And treasured in the People's hearts.' ”

“Christmas,” the same chronicler continues, “was kept as usual at Windsor. On the return of the royal pair from their afternoon drive Her Majesty and Prince Albert very unexpectedly paid a visit to the royal kitchen for the purpose of inspecting several splendid joints of beef previous to being cooked, the produce of beasts fattened on the farm of the Prince Consort in Windsor Great Park. Several Cochin China pullets and other poultry intended for the royal table were also inspected by the Queen and Prince, and greatly admired. The banquet took place in the grand dining-room, the chief dish, according to old English custom, being a splendid baron of beef, nearly four feet long, between two and three feet in width, and weighing nearly 180 lbs. There was likewise placed upon one of the side-tables the hump of the Brahmin ox presented to Her Majesty by Viscount Combermere, and slaughtered at the Royal Dairy in the latter part of last month. The hump weighed 28 lbs., and was cured after the most approved fashion under the immediate superintendence of the royal purveyor. It possessed a most delightful flavour, and was greatly admired by Her Majesty's guests.”

Prince Albert is now evidently rapidly gaining ground in public opinion. On January 6 [1844] the *Illustrated London News* publishes his portrait with some highly laudatory verses in his honour. A few



## Mr. Barnum and Tom Thumb

days are spent at Claremont as usual, and towards the end of the month we are informed that the usual "routine of healthful exercises has been observed at Windsor Castle during the week. Her Majesty and the infantine members of the royal family frequently take carriage drives, while Prince Albert has addicted himself with increasing avidity to sports of the field."

In March an elaborately carved arm-chair made of Norfolk oak (not a particularly useful present one would think for a child rising three) is presented to the Prince of Wales. In April the King and Queen of the Belgians visit Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace, and the Princess Royal as well as the Prince of Wales witnessed the performances of "Tom Thumb," otherwise known as Charles H. Stratton. The astute P. T. Barnum was then winning his spurs as the greatest showman of the century, and he flooded the market with pamphlets and pictures (including a good many portraits of P. T. Barnum) dealing with the achievements of the American dwarf at Buckingham Palace on March 23 and April 1, 1844. The plume of the Prince of Wales occupies a prominent place in most of Mr. Barnum's pictorial productions, both plain and coloured. The American man-in-miniature (the word dwarf was far too commonplace for the vocabulary of puff) became the rage of the hour, and all London followed in the Queen's footsteps. It is difficult to credit Mr. Barnum's veracity as to the number and value of the presents showered by his royal patrons (King Leopold, Queen Louise, and Queen Adelaide as well as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) on the fortunate midget. "Mr. Punch" scented a dangerous rival in Mr. Barnum, and a fortnight later proceeded to denounce the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

favours "lavished on the American Tom Thumb, whose astounding genius is to measure in his boots five-and-twenty inches." The *Chronicle* appears to have given an elaborate account of the second performance of Tom Thumb at Buckingham Palace : "We learn that at the conclusion of the entertainment Her Majesty the Queen was pleased to present to the General, with her own hand, a superb souvenir of the most exquisite handicraft, manufactured of mother-of-pearl and mounted with gold and precious stones. On one side were the Royal initials V.R. and crown, and on the reverse bouquets of flowers in emeralds and rubies. In addition to this splendid gift Her Majesty subsequently presented the General with a beautiful gold pencil-case with his initials, and coat-of-arms, on the emerald surmounting the case, accompanying the royal souvenir with an expression of Her Majesty's high gratification at the versatile talents of the General, and also complimenting Mr. Barnum, his guardian, on the aptness of his pupil. The General then made his *congé* amidst the congratulations of the royal party. Tom Thumb's personation of the Emperor Napoleon appears to have elicited much mirth, the Queen of Belgium, a daughter of Louis Philippe, being amongst the audience. This was followed by a representation of the Grecian statues, after which the General danced a hornpipe and sang several comic songs."

In Punch's Almanack for 1844, under the title the "Royal Gleaners," another hit is made at the Flemish farm as well as at the simple life led by the Queen at Windsor. History was repeating itself, only happily John Leech sat in the seat of James Gillray.

Now occurs the first mention of Osborne, destined



THE ROYAL ANGLERS ON VIRGINIA WATER. 1814



## On the Shores of the Solent

during the next few years to play a very important part in the upbringing of the heir to the throne and his brothers and sisters. The original house on the Osborne estate was wholly inadequate for the accommodation of a Court even on the most modest scale, and the following paragraph of what would have been called forty years later "society news" speaks for itself :

"The Royal Nursery.—While Her Majesty and Prince Albert are inhaling the invigorating and genial sea breeze, and rusticating at Osborne in the Isle of Wight, the royal progeny will be domiciled at the picturesque seat at Eaglehurst, which has been selected in the marine interests of the royal infants. The stately tower of Eaglehurst is not far from Calshot Castle in the Southampton river, commanding beautiful sea views in all directions, and is surrounded with royal plantations. It was formerly the seat of the Earl of Cavan and originally built by Temple Luttrell. The lofty tower of Eaglehurst is well known as Luttrell's Folly."

Prince Albert at this juncture paid a flying visit to his native country but is soon back again, and early in May accompanies the Queen when she pays an official visit to the Royal Academy.\* Illustrations are now published of the eight frescoes by British artists on the walls of the Buckingham Palace pavilion, the neighbourhood of which is "enlivened by the presence of a number of foreign birds which are special favourites with the royal children." Charles Kemble gave a private reading of *Cymbeline* at Buckingham Palace towards the end of the month (May), but the royal children

\* Many details of the "Academy" of 1844 are given in the reminiscences of Mr. W. P. Frith (see *ante*, p. 81).

## The Boyhood of a Great King

were not present. Neither that nor the visits of the King of Saxony and the Emperor of Russia were allowed to disturb the "daily airings" so beneficial to their health and vigour.

At the end of July the arrival of the indispensable Mrs. Lilly at Windsor is recorded, and the public learn a few days later that "two engines to be attached to special trains have been commanded to be kept in constant readiness with their steam up both day and night at the Paddington terminus of the G.W.R. (the famous railway to the West was already familiarly known by those three initials), to start at 5 minutes' notice for the Slough station for the purpose of conveying the Great Officers of State to Windsor Castle on their being summoned from Town on the interesting and auspicious occasion of the accouchement of Her Majesty. A powerful alarm has just been fixed at the Galvanic Telegraphy office at Paddington communicating with the telegraph office at Slough for the purpose of arousing the attendant who sleeps at the office, in the event of a telegraphic message reaching the Terminus from Windsor during the night. A trusted person has also been appointed to remain in attendance at the Slough Station throughout the whole of the night. It is computed that a message can be sent from Windsor to Slough in 25 minutes."\*

The Queen's second son and fourth child was born at Windsor in the early morning of August 6, 1844, and the projected telegraphic arrangements appear to have worked admirably. "At two minutes past

\* This dispels the legend that the first practical use of telegraphy was to facilitate the arrest of Tawell, the Salt Hill murderer, in 1845. On the contrary it was clearly employed in 1844 to announce the birth of a Royal Prince.

## An Early Telegram

six A.M.," we are told, "a messenger was despatched from the Castle to Slough, and the intelligence communicated to the Cabinet in Town by means of the electro-magnetic telegraph within 11 minutes. The first special which reached Slough from Paddington arrived at the station at 23 minutes past 8 o'clock, having performed the 18 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles in exactly 18 minutes, being at the extraordinary rate of more than 60 miles an hour. The second special train from Paddington, which brought down Sir Robert Peel and Lord Stanley, reached Slough at 40 minutes past 8. His Grace the Duke of Wellington arrived in a third special train performing the distance from Paddington to Slough in 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  minutes."

The *Illustrated London News* is pardonably enthusiastic :

"This issue gives an illustration of the electric telegraph station at Slough and more information of the extraordinary feat accomplished on the occasion of the birth of the Duke of Edinburgh. The messenger reached Slough station within eight minutes of his departure from the Castle, viz., 10 past 6 o'clock, and although Mr. Russell, the gentleman who has charge of the telegraph office, and Mr. Howell had to be called from their beds, yet such was the admirable nature of the arrangements made and the extreme rapidity with which they were carried out that within three minutes of the information reaching Slough Station the telegraph was not only at work but a communication was despatched to Paddington and an acknowledgment of its receipt returned to Slough, and this was all accomplished within 11 minutes of the departure of the special messenger from the Castle. Upon the departure of each of the three special trains conveying the Cabinet Ministers and Great

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Officers of State from Paddington the fact was instantly telegraphed to Slough, so that at that station not an instant was lost upon the arrival of the Ministers, &c., in their proceeding in the Queen's and Royal Hotel carriages to the royal residence at Windsor. This telegraph has been constructed for the Great Western Railway by Mr. Cooke. Instead of laying the conducting wires in iron tubing he suspended them in the open air from lofty poles, the advantages of which are at once manifest. The telegraph is available for the public for the transmission of messages and replies, and the apparatus may be inspected, though at the exhibition charge of 1s. each person. On the above date also were performed some wonders of railway travelling. The journey from Slough to Paddington Terminus was accomplished in less time than the distance had ever previously been traversed by special trains of the G.W.R. The  $18\frac{1}{4}$  miles only occupied 15 min. 10 secs., or upwards of 70 miles an hour."

The further increase of the Royal family by the birth of the Duke of Edinburgh explains Leech's cartoon in the issue of August 17, 1844, based on the old nursery story of the old woman who lived in the shoe. It is entitled "A royal nursery rhyme for 1860," and underneath it ran the lines :

"There was a rich lady that lived in a shoe.

She had so many children that she didn't know what to do."

In the paper of the previous week had appeared a parody of the *Gazette*, surmounted by the royal arms :

### HER MAJESTY'S ACCOUCHEMENT.

*Punch* has had command to announce that in



## Presents—Appropriate and Otherwise

celebration of the birth of the infant Duke of York ("Mr. Punch" here ran a serious risk of losing his old reputation as a true prophet) roast beef and plum pudding will be distributed on Sunday next to the inmates of every Poor Law Union throughout the Kingdom. Underneath are these words: "*Vivant Regina et princeps.*"

In the issue of August 17 a picture is also given of the Duke of Wellington in a hackney coach hastening, presumably to Paddington Station, on the occasion of the Queen's confinement. Another cartoon portrays the Queen and Prince Albert inspecting two large bee-hives in the neighbourhood of Windsor Castle: "According to an excerpt from a morning paper these hives are so constructed that the honey may be removed without destroying the bees." It is also stated in a short article "these hives have been expressly fitted up for the instruction of the Prince of Wales, whose dawning mind will, we trust, receive and appreciate the wholesome political and social lesson which they so unequivocally convey."

The Court remains at Windsor, the usual *fêtes* marking the twenty-fifth birthday of Prince Albert. Mrs. Lilly takes her departure, and both the Prince of Wales and his father receive presents of fishing-rods from a certain Mr. Little, who is at once appointed fishing-rod maker to Prince Albert. The Prince of Wales's rod is described as fitted in a richly ornamented case, enclosing a variety of leads, floats, &c., with the Prince of Wales's feathers highly wrought at the end in frosted silver. As might be expected this is too severe a trial for the patience of the observant "Mr. Punch," who, on September 7, thus disposes of the "Royal Rods":

"A paper states that two splendid fishing-rods

## The Boyhood of a Great King

have been presented to Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales. The construction of the rod intended for the infant Prince is quite different from what has been stated. It is composed of a number of slender twigs of that ornament of our woods and forests the birch, bound together at one end so as to form a handle with gold and silver wire. We may also assert that it has not been put into the Prince of Wales's hands at all, but into the hands of his royal papa, whom we believe has for the present passed it on to Lady Lyttelton with instructions to use when required."

On the previous day (September 6, 1844) the newly born Prince was baptized in the Private Chapel at Windsor by the names of Alfred Ernest Albert, his sponsors being Prince George of Cambridge,\* represented by his father, the Prince of Leiningen (for whom the Duke of Wellington stood proxy), and the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. On this occasion Queen Victoria made the following note in her journal :†

"The scene in the chapel was very solemn, and the organ has always a moving effect on me. To see these two children [the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales] there too, seemed such a dream to me. May God bless them all, poor little things, and that our youngest really may be as good as his beloved father was my fervent prayer during the service, as always for all of them."

Amongst those present on this occasion was the future Emperor of Germany, then Prince William of Prussia.

\* The late Duke of Cambridge.

† "Life of the Prince Consort," by Sir Theodore Martin, vol. i. p. 233.

## A Second Scotch Trip

The Queen had made up her mind to pay another visit to Scotland. On the day of her departure for Blair Athol, accompanied by Prince Albert and the Princess Royal (Monday, September 9), Her Majesty writes thus in her journal :

“We got up at a quarter to six. We breakfasted. Mama came to take leave of us. Alice and the baby [Prince Alfred, not yet quite five weeks old] were brought in, poor little things, to wish us ‘good-by.’ Then good Bertie [name by which the Prince of Wales is always called in his family] came down to see us and Vicky [Princess Royal] appeared as *voyageuse* and was all impatience to go.”

In the Scottish trip “Mr. Punch” soon finds further opportunities for indulging his merriment. First comes another “royal proclamation,” supposed to have been issued on Her Majesty’s arrival :

“Whereas on each and every one of our royal movements it has been and is the custom of sundry weakly disposed persons, known as our own correspondents, our private correspondents, and others, to write and cause to be printed absurd and foolish language touching ourselves, our royal Consort and our beloved babies, it is our will and pleasure that such foolish practices, tending as they do to bring royalty into contempt, shall be discontinued, and that from henceforth all vain, silly and sycophantic verbiage shall cease, and good, straightforward simple English be used in all descriptions of the progresses of ourselves, our royal Consort and our dearly beloved children. Given at Blair Athol, September 16, 1844. Signed, Victoria Regina.”

Great fun is also made of such reports of the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

special correspondents as the following: "The Princess Royal, young though she be, is not slow in these things to imitate her royal mother. Not a child in all broad Scotland likes better to lunch on milk and oaten cake or dine on broth." "Meeting the young son of Lord Glenlyon the other day in the Castle Avenue she told him how much she liked his tartan dress, and that it was the same as worn by the Prince of Wales." Here is another specimen of these harmless trivialities, which "Mr. Punch" ascribes to his natural enemy, the special Jenkins. "The Princess Royal, mounted on her Shetland pony and attended by a groom and servant, always accompanies Her Majesty and the Prince in their morning walk through the grounds of the royal palace, and the royal parents are frequently seen to stop and listen with alternations of interest and amusement to the *naïve* observations of the youthful Princess on the novelty of the objects which meet her view at every instance."

Meanwhile the Prince of Wales, the Princess Alice, and Prince Alfred are once more enjoying the invigorating breezes of Brighton. Lady Lyttelton is there of course, and Mr. Brown, a Windsor surgeon, was in attendance during the journey thither, now accomplished entirely by train. The "Court Newsmen" follows the doings of Lady Lyttelton and her charges at Brighton with an omniscience which is really extraordinary:

"September 21.—The Queen is expected to return to Windsor, but will probably first pay a visit to the royal children at Brighton. Mr. Brown pays frequent professional visits to the royal family at the Pavilion to keep Her Majesty informed of the health of the children.

## Once more at Brighton

“The Royal Children.—The Prince of Wales and the Princess Alice are at Brighton under the care of the Dowager Lady Lyttelton. They were taken on the pier on Friday, when they amused themselves for some time by running about.

“The *Monkey*, one of H.M. steam vessels, has proceeded to Brighton to take furniture from the royal Pavilion to the Isle of Wight. We are happy to announce that the Prince of Wales, Princess Alice and Prince Alfred continue in excellent health. The royal infants are taken for carriage airings daily on the cliff and the younger ones occasionally take pedestrian exercise on the chain pier attended by the Dowager Lady Lyttelton.”

The temptation to speak of the return visit of King Louis Philippe and Queen Amélie to the Queen at Windsor (October) must be resisted. John Leech is quite equal to the occasion. In a most amusing cartoon he depicts “Mr. Punch” as the “head-pacifier of Europe,” inviting the “Citizen King” and Queen Victoria, attired as children, to embrace. In one of the illustrations of the Windsor gaieties Prince Albert seems to be presenting his three elder children to the King of the French in the “Crimson Drawing-room.” The husband of the Queen made a deep impression on the father-in-law of “Uncle Leopold,” and Her Majesty wrote in evident delight: “He (Louis Philippe) spoke in the highest terms of Albert—‘Oh he will do wonders; he is so wise. He does not go too fast. He will always give you good advice.’”

The “royal infants” play no part either in the inauguration of the Royal Exchange or the visit

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of their parents to Burghley. By the time the third birthday of the Prince of Wales arrives, he is constantly described as taking out-door exercise on his Shetland pony. *Mens sana in corpore sano* evidently was one of the Prince Consort's "Golden Rules."

## CHAPTER VI

WHO SHALL EDUCATE THE PRINCE OF WALES ?  
THE GOOD ADVICE OF PHILOSOPHERS, PEDAGOGUES,  
PAMPHLETEERS, PROFESSORS AND MR. PUNCH  
1840-1845

THERE is a self-evident contradiction between the proverb about the wisdom inherent in many counsellors (so conspicuous on the original encaustic tiles of the present Houses of Parliament) and the more homely dictum as to the foolishness of employing too many cooks in the confection of broth. It was certainly a fortunate thing, as far as the destinies of England and the history-making of this twentieth century are concerned, that the latter prevailed in the case of the upbringing of King Edward VII. More than a year before his birth the far-seeing and sagacious Stockmar thus writes to the youthful husband of Queen Victoria :

“ Impress upon Anson the necessity of conducting this affair (the selection of a nurse) with the greatest conscientiousness and circumspection, *for a man's education begins the first day of his life*, and a lucky choice I regard as the greatest and finest gift we can bestow on the expected stranger.”

This excellent advice sank deep into the hearts of those to whom it was addressed, for in the all-important matter of the early training of their children Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and their

## The Boyhood of a Great King

trusted adviser were, from the first, of one mind. The Prince of Wales was not quite four months old when the question of his future formed the subject of the gravest discussion. On March 6, 1842, Baron Stockmar again takes up his pen in the best interests of common sense :

“ Good education cannot begin too soon. . . . The first truth by which the Queen and the Prince ought to be thoroughly penetrated is, that their position is a more difficult one than that of any other parents in the kingdom ; because the Royal children ought not only to be brought up to be moral characters but also fitted to discharge successfully the arduous duties that may eventually devolve upon them as future Sovereigns. Hence the magnitude of the parental responsibility of the Sovereigns to their children, for upon the conscientious discharge of this responsibility will depend hereafter the peace of mind and happiness of themselves and their family, and, as far as the prosperity and happiness of a nation depend upon the personal character of its Sovereign, the welfare of England.

“ To this day England reveres the memory of George III. as the great upholder of the domestic virtues. History already takes the liberty of judging of his merits as a Sovereign, but it remains unanimous in its praise of his private virtues. But George III. either did not properly understand his duties as a parent or he neglected them. Three of his sons, George IV., the Duke of York, and William IV., were brought up and educated in England. The Dukes of Kent, of Cumberland, of Sussex, and of Cambridge received the greater part of their education on the Continent. The errors committed by George IV., the Duke of York and William IV.



## Baron Stockmar's Plain Speaking

belong already to the domain of history. Unfortunately the errors of these Princes were of the most glaring kind, and we can find their explanation only in the supposition that their tutors were either incapable of grafting on their minds during youth the principles of truth and morality, or that they most culpably neglected their duties, or were not supported in them by the Royal parents."

Baron Stockmar never hesitated to use plain language, but it seems doubtful whether he had grasped all the patent absurdities and incongruities of the system of education carried on at the Bower Lodge, Kew, between 1770 and 1780.\* While generously crediting George III. with the possession of the domestic virtues, he seems to forget that "domesticity" counted for little or nothing in the rearing of his sons. Queen Victoria assented generally to all the opinions of this frank and outspoken adviser, but she hardly relished the strictures on the "Good old Sailor King," whose wild-oats had been forgotten and forgiven before he came to the throne, and whose manner of life after his marriage contrasted so favourably with that of his predecessor. Queen Victoria always entertained a kindly recollection of the husband† of "Great-aunt Adelaide" (as her children soon learned to call their friend and correspondent). The Queen and Prince Albert took time fully to discuss and consider the advice which had thus been tendered

\* See *ante*, p. 45.

† Since the death of Queen Victoria a very touching account of the latter days of King William has been written and published by the Countess of Munster. ["My Memories and Miscellanies." London: Eveleigh Nash, July 1904.] After reading this book one can realise the force of the "quite right too," written by the late Queen opposite Baron Stockmar's somewhat mordant criticisms.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

them by "the most disinterested" of men, and on March 24 the Queen thus writes to Lord Melbourne from Windsor :

"Stockmar says, and very justly, that our occupations prevent us from managing these affairs as much our own selves as other parents can, and therefore we must have some one in whom to place *implicit confidence*. He says, a lady of rank and title with a sub-governess would be the best. But where to find a person so situated fit for the place, and, if fit, one who will consent to shut herself up in the nursery and entirely from society, as she must if she is really to superintend the whole, and not accept the office, as in my case, Princess Charlotte's and my aunt's, merely for the title, which would be only a source of annoyance and dispute ?

"My fear is that even if such a woman were to be found, she would consider herself not as only responsible to the Prince and Queen, but more to the country and nation and public, and I feel she ought to be responsible only to *us* and *we* to the country and nation."

Lord Melbourne entirely concurred in the view that a lady of rank should be at the head of the establishment. "A person of good condition would better understand the precise nature, duties, and responsibility of her place and would be more likely to fulfil and observe them."

Lady Lyttelton was now (1842) appointed "Preceptress"\* and is henceforth generally described as "Preceptress to the Princess Royal."

Early in 1843, and long before the second birthday of the Heir to the Throne, a pamphlet appeared which attracted a larger share of public

\* See p. 123, *ante*.

## A Pretentious Pamphlet

attention than it deserved, and certainly far more than the author expected. Here is its title-page :

WHO SHOULD EDUCATE THE PRINCE OF WALES?

*“ Qu'il puisse faire toutes choses, et n'aime à faire  
que les bonnes.”*

MONTAIGNE

“ Though some may make slight of pamphlets, yet you may see by them how the wind sits ; as, take a straw, and throw it up into the air, you shall see by that which way the wind is, which you shall not do by casting up a stone ; more solid things do not show the complexion of the times so well as ballads and pamphlets.”—JOHN SELDEN.

LONDON

EFFINGHAM WILSON

18 Bishopsgate Street Within

1843

The modesty of the dedication on the following page needs no comment.

To the

QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

as, next to her people, most interested in this momentous question, the author presumes to offer these honest, though, perhaps, ill-expressed thoughts, with every feeling of proper respect for her Royal office, attachment to her person, and admiration of her virtues.

Before turning to the Effingham Wilson pamphlet for the brief consideration it merits, it should be noted that a short time before its appearance the following paragraph appeared in the *Times* (June 27, 1843) :

“ THE PRINCE OF WALES'S TUTOR

“ We believe we may mention upon pretty good authority that the individual who has been chosen

## The Boyhood of a Great King

by Her Majesty and Prince Albert to fill this highly important and most responsible appointment, is the Ven. Samuel Wilberforce, M.A., Archdeacon of Surrey, and one of the Chaplains in Ordinary to H.R.H. Prince Albert."

Was there any unrevealed connection between the paragraph and the pamphlet? It was in August 1843 that the Effingham Wilson pamphlet appeared, and it was on September 2, 1843, that "Mr. Punch" dealt with the subject under the same title and with Leech's most amusing sketch "Punch as Tutor to the Prince." \* It was its attractive title which made the fortune of a pamphlet which may be described as a panorama of pompous platitudes and self-evident commonplaces. Had the candidature of the future Bishop of Oxford and Winchester anything to do with the following sonorous sentence: "What is education? I agree with Plato—it is to teach the boy what he ought to do when he becomes a man (who ever doubted it?). The education of a subject concerns only his relatives, that of a monarch is the affair of his people (a sufficiently well-ascertained truism). I think the Prince's education should be entrusted *neither to a statesman nor a churchman*. Though I would desire our future King to listen with attention and profit to the dignitaries of the Church, no churchman must teach him to rule—the world has seen enough of that. . . . The instructor I should choose should have a mind so truly devoted to the adoration of truth, that he could not possibly belong to any party, or, in other words, be a partisan. To the

\* See pamphlet published 1843 [British Museum Library] and *Punch*, vol. v., July to December 1843, pp. 97–101. By a clerical error Mr. J. Penderel-Broadhurst speaks of both as appearing in 1846. The date is of primary importance.

## Fertile Suggestions

people neither of these parties can be agreeable," and so forth. The writer then proceeds to confess his partiality for "a man of letters who has passed through the alembic of adversity," a phrase borrowed from another author. Mr. Effingham Wilson (if he was, as *Punch* assumes, the author as well as the publisher of the brochure) would with a cheerful heart consign the Heir-Apparent to the tender mercies of a Fenelon, a Brooke ("Gustavus Vasa") or even to Mr. Day, the priggish pedant of "Sandford and Merton" fame. This ideal tutor must, moreover, have "a feeling heart, a gentle disposition, a love of children, and clear and quick perception of juvenile character, a tact that will teach him how to mould the pliant mind, and, although exercising the greatest indulgence for their little failings, must have withal so firm a purpose as never to be turned aside by their blandishments from carrying out a principle, or to allow that which is wrong to pass unheeded." After sundry quotations from Montaigne, who says that teachers should have *plutost la teste bien faite que bien pleine*, we are treated to a picture of the Prince of Wales studying ornithology (presumably by birds'-nesting) in Windsor Park, and making observations "in company of his Governor which would teach him to appreciate the struggles of vice like Telemachus with Mentor or Clements in the 'Fool of Quality'" (the source of the alembic of adversity simile). Selden is cited in support of the contention that "the august parent of our Prince should keep from his mind all pleasure derivable from wearing a military garb. He will not sit upon the throne as the descendant of William the Conqueror, for knowing that he is a king by the will of a free people he will date, not from 1066, but from 1688." The

## The Boyhood of a Great King

pamphleteer lays great stress on the catholicity which should distinguish the views of the future Sovereign : " With the King religion must be the first consideration. Viewing the conscientious beliefs of his subjects in the spirit of Christianity he must not be the head of a sect. There must above all be no ' paragraphing '—no announcements as to his sayings, doings, and whereabouts"—an injunction wholly disregarded by contemporary editors both great and small who for several years to come chronicled His Royal Highness's " airings " with laudable assiduity. The pamphlet was promptly sent to the indefatigable Stockmar, from whom it elicited a memorandum of real importance and permanent value. In this the Baron calls the attention of Prince Albert to the transition state in which European opinion then was, adding that " by the time the Prince shall ascend the throne many of the maxims of government and institutions of society, now in the ascendancy, will, according to present probabilities, have either entirely passed away, or be on the very verge of change." Time has satisfactorily justified the absolute truth of Baron Stockmar's prophecy. " If coming events," he continues, " cast their shadows before, we may, without presumption, say that the shadows of great and important changes in the social conditions of Great Britain are already so conspicuously written on the land that the changes themselves cannot be far distant. The great and leading question therefore is—whether the education of the Prince should be one which will prepare him for approaching events, or one which will stamp, perhaps indelibly, an impression of the sacred character of all existing institutions in his youthful mind, and teach him that to resist change is to serve at once the cause

## Baron Stockmar's Prophecies

of God and of his country. Wisdom appears to dictate the superior advantage of the former course. The education of the Prince should, however, nowise tend to make him a demagogue or a moral enthusiast, but a man of calm, profound, comprehensive understanding, imbued with a deep conviction of the indispensable necessity of practical morality to the welfare of both Sovereign and people. The proper duty of the Sovereigns in this country is *not to take the lead in change, but to act as a balance-wheel on the movements of the social body. When the whole nation, or a large majority of it, advances, the King should not stand still, but when the movement is too partial, irregular, or over rapid, the Royal power may well be interposed to restore the pendulum. . . .*"

In discussing the religious side of the question Baron Stockmar says that the Prince of Wales must be trained in the tenets of the Church of England, which the law declares to be the faith of the Royal Family, but he confesses himself unable to advise as to whether the great questions as to the ultimate relations between scientific discovery and revealed religion should be opened up. Upon one point, however, he is quite clear. "The Prince should be early taught that thrones and the social order have a stable foundation in the moral and intellectual faculties of man; that by addressing his public exertions to the cultivation of these powers in his people, and by taking their dictates as the constant guide of his own conduct, he will promote the solidarity of the empire and the prosperity of his subjects." The pamphlet, so much discussed in 1843, has long since been relegated to the limbo of things that are clean "forgotten out of mind," but Baron Stockmar's logical and incisive words have borne fruit a hundredfold. They sank deep

## The Boyhood of a Great King

into the heart of the Queen, and in due time were not lost on the then wholly unconscious subject of such serious deliberations.

Turning from grave to gay it is scarcely necessary to add that the ever-watchful editor of *Punch* did not miss so splendid a chance of reaping fresh laurels. On September 2, 1843, he assumes clerical garb, and is depicted as teaching the boy-prince his letters, while in the weekly cartoon John Leech puts his glass-bottle sign-manual to a picture of the mirth-moving hunchback clad in college cap and gown, with the "black rod" under his arm, hearing a tiny child, standing on a footstool before him, repeat his lesson. The writer of the accompanying text declares that Effingham Wilson's pamphlet unquestionably pointed to "Mr. Punch" as "the only moral pedagogue for his Royal Highness now in petticoats. 'There exists,' wrote Mr. Wilson, 'a poet, who, did not age interfere, would be, as far as can be publicly known, THE MAN. An elegant scholar, a poet of the highest order,' &c. If this be not 'Punch' we should like to know *who* can be pointed at?" . . . : "The papers should not prate of his whereabouts as 'yesterday morning his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales rode out accompanied by his equerries, &c. &c.;" no, let him and his tutor sally forth at earliest dawn (rather say twelve at noon: we hate early rising), let the latter as being the stronger, and for no other reason, bear the wallet of plain, cold provisions for the day. We have no objection to bear 'the wallet'; which, however, shall be provided with two sets of provisions; the one simple and homely for the Prince, the other luxurious and toothsome for our own mature stomach. *We* will have *dindon aux truffes*, with hock and



## “ Mr. Punch ” to the Rescue

Burgundy. The Prince shall rejoice in a captain's biscuit (or a half-pay lieutenant's) and a polony. This he shall wash down with frothing imperial pop; and as he drinks Punch will philosophise to him upon his future royal relations,” and so forth. The article concludes thus : “ We have not shrunk from the call that has been made to us. We have now laid our plan of education before the Queen and the Country, and have no doubt whatever that we shall be appointed by Parliament and the rejoicing kingdom as Tutor to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. And when countless years have passed away, and the King sleeps in St. George's Chapel, his epitaph will be considered to contain all that can be said of royal dust when it shall have these words, ‘ His Tutor was Punch.’ ”

The last words occupy a neat tombstone, and then comes a set of verses illustrated with thumb-nail sketches entitled “ Another Proposal ” :

Who'll teach the Prince ?  
I answered Punch,  
With my cap and hunch ;  
And I'll teach the Prince.

Who'll write his books ?  
I, answered Brougham,  
With my goose quill plume ;  
And I'll write his books.

Who'll make him dance ?  
I, answered Peel,  
For I can turn and wheel ;  
I'll make him dance.

Who'll teach him logic ?  
Says Hume, I've the right,  
I can vote black and white ;  
So I'll teach him logic.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Who'll teach him dancing ?  
I lisp'd Baron Nathan,  
'Mongth tea-cupth, jughth, and bathin ;  
I'll teach him dancing.

Who'll teach him writing ?  
I, said Lord William,  
Because a copyist with the quill I am ;  
And I'll teach him writing

Who'll teach him politics ?  
Said Graham, that will I  
That he every side may try ;  
So I'll teach him politics.

Who'll pay the piper ?  
I, said John Bull,  
On me will come the pull ;  
I *must* pay the piper

## CHAPTER VII

### NURSERY DAYS—FIRST LESSONS AND IMPRESSIONS— PARENTAL SUPERVISION

1843-1845

FROM this time forward both the Queen and Prince Albert took an active part in the education of their children, and especially in that of the elder ones, around whose cradles the controversy of the pamphleteer had raged. Now we hear of the Queen hearing the Princess Royal read or giving her history lessons in the course of these early yachting tours, when the places visited afforded a convenient text; now Prince Albert impresses some useful object-lesson on the plastic mind of his eldest son. Tutors and governesses are engaged; the services of "eminent professors" are utilised, but the personal superintendence and the watchful vigilance of the parental eye is never for a moment relaxed. It was very many years after reserved for the Princess Christian,\* herself a woman of more than ordinary ability, to edit with affectionate care the posthumous memoirs and letters of her sister the Princess Alice.† Her father had been many years dead, and his favourite<sup>4</sup> daughter had followed him to the tomb on the same fatal December 14. In the preface to the work in question appears the following

\* Princess Helena, born May 6, 1846.

† See *post*, 253.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

tribute to the care bestowed on their children's upbringing both by the late Queen and the Prince Consort :

“One of the main principles observed in the education of the Royal children was this—that though they received the best training, of body and mind, to fit them for the high position they would eventually have to fill, they should in no wise come in contact with the actual Court life. The children were scarcely known to the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, as they only now and then made their appearance for a moment after dinner at dessert, or accompanied their parents out driving. The care of them was exclusively entrusted to persons who possessed the Queen and Prince Consort's entire confidence, and with whom they could at all times communicate direct. The Royal parents kept themselves thoroughly informed of the minutest details of what was being done for their children in the way of training and instruction. After the first years of childhood were past, the Royal children were placed under the care of English, French, and German governesses, who, again, were under a Lady Superintendent, and accompanied the children in their walks and watched over them during their games.”

In an interesting little volume on the “Life of Queen Victoria in the Isle of Wight,” already referred to, it is stated that “the Prince Consort often spent hours daily with the children, and not only furnished a general plan for their instruction, but superintended it himself. He not only appointed to each one his or her teachers, but thought it his duty to read every book that was about to be put into their hands.” The late Professor Tyndall,

## Queen Victoria's Unselfishness

at the inauguration of the Birkbeck Institute, alluded in almost identical terms to his own experiences when he visited Osborne, where he gave lectures to several of the royal children. Between 1842 and 1857, many tutors and governesses were employed in assisting the Queen in the great educational work which, in the case of the younger children, went on for some time after their father's death, when the Prince of Wales had arrived at years of discretion, and his elder sister the Princess Royal was married and herself a mother. For all of them the Queen invariably showed the greatest kindness and consideration. Mr. J. George Hodgkins in his little book published nearly forty years ago,\* relates the following anecdote on the authority of Grace Greenwood (Mrs. Lippincott), who communicated it to the *Chicago Advance* :

“When I was in England I heard several pleasant anecdotes of the Queen and her family from a lady who had received them from her friend, the governess of the Royal children. This governess, a very interesting young lady, was the orphan daughter of a Scottish clergyman. During the first year of her residence at Windsor her mother died. When she first received the news of her serious illness she applied to the Queen to resign her situation, feeling that to her mother she owed even a more sacred duty than to her Sovereign. The Queen, who had been much pleased with her, would not hear of her making this sacrifice, but said in a tone of the most gentle sympathy : ‘Go at once to your mother, child. Stay with her as long as she needs you, and then come back to us. I will keep your

\* “Sketches and Anecdotes of Her Majesty the Queen,” by J. George Hodgkins. Sampson Low, Son and Marston. London, 1868.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

place for you. Prince Albert and I will hear the children's lessons, so in any event let your mind be at rest in regard to your pupils.' ”

In the year of Queen Victoria's death a volume appeared on the subject of her private life,\* containing many interesting statements which have since been corroborated and are in perfect accord with the spirit of her journals. Her Majesty frequently supervised in person the riding and driving lessons of her children in the great Riding School at Windsor. The school-rooms in the various royal residences were always close to the Queen's own apartments, that at Windsor being next to her private audience-chamber, and only one room away from her own sitting-room. Its connection with the first ten years of the life of King Edward VII. is a very close one.†

The opinions of the late Queen on the subject of religion have been already spoken of in connection with the Stockmar correspondence. The author of the “Private Life of Queen Victoria” says :

“The religious training of the Royal children was entirely mapped out by the Queen, who herself drew up a memorandum, which, if it were given to the world in full, would prove of inestimable benefit to all parents, so kindly, so truly sympathetic, so earnestly and womanly is it. Touching the Princess in particular, she says : ‘I am *quite* clear that she should be taught to have great reverence for God and for religion, and that she should have the feeling of devotion and love which our Heavenly

\* “Private Life of Queen Victoria,” by one of her Majesty's Servants. London, C. Arthur Pearson, 1901.

† *Post*, see p. 346.



KING EDWARD VII. ABOUT THE AGE OF 4





## A King's First Prayers

Father encourages His earthly children to have for Him, and not one of fear and trembling.' The note touching the religious training of the Prince of Wales was even more decided; "The law prescribes that the belief of the Church of England shall be the faith of the members of the Royal Family, and in this faith the Prince of Wales *must unquestionably be trained.*"

In the collection of drawings and autograph letters (1846-1851) described in the Preface are two MS. prayers traced in a child's hand and docketed "Albert Prince of Wales." The one is for morning and the other for evening use. They run as follows :

"O merciful God, I thank thee for giving me rest during the night past, and refreshing me with quiet sleep. O Lord, grant that I may pass a good and happy day, and be obedient to all those who are set to watch over me. Bless dear Papa and Mama, and give them the comfort of seeing me grow up a good child. Bless and keep my brother and sisters and teach them and me to remember thee our Creator in the days of our youth through Jesus Christ our Lord."

and :

"O almighty God, I thank thee for all the mercies which thou hast given me this day. Take me this night under the shadow of thy wing and grant that I may rise again in health and safety for thou only canst protect me. Bless dear Papa, Mama, my brother and sisters, and make me a good boy through Jesus Christ our Lord."

It would be manifestly premature to speak of the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Prince of Wales's tutors, Mr. Henry Birch (1849-1852), Mr. F. W. Gibbs (1852-1858), and the Rev. Charles Feral Tarver, who held that responsible post at the time when the present narrative of the boyhood of a Great King comes to a close.

## CHAPTER VIII

EARLY VOYAGES AND EARLY LETTERS—A VISIT  
TO ASTLEY'S—PUNCH'S CELEBRATED CARTOON—  
THE DUKE OF CORNWALL VISITS HIS DUCHY

1845-1846

THE next two years of the Prince of Wales's life were not less happy than those which preceded them. The care bestowed by the Queen and the always over-worked Prince Consort on their children was unremitting and exemplary, although a great deal of worry was caused by the seemingly endless Sikh War and the excitement occasioned by the Puseyite controversy, the anti-corn-law agitation, and the commercial crisis which formed the sequel of the railway mania. Those who knew the real feelings of the Queen and her husband on matters of religion could afford to laugh at caricatures in which Her Majesty is portrayed as a nun, and the heir to the throne as a censer-swinging acolyte, or those representing the Queen and Prince Albert accompanied by the Prince of Wales listening to the harangue of a Roman ecclesiastic in full canonicals; but with the less well-informed section of the community those outward and visible signs of the *odium theologicum* doubtless created all sorts of erroneous impressions. Possibly they were still in the air two years later (1847) when the venerable

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Wordsworth (regarded by some as the ideal preceptor for the Prince of Wales indicated by the author of the famous education pamphlet of 1843<sup>\*</sup>) apostrophised Prince Albert on the occasion of his installation as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge in the lines :

“ Like that wise ancestor of thine†  
Who threw the Saxon shield over Luther’s life,  
When first, above the yells of bigot strife,  
The trumpet of the Living Word  
Assumed a voice of deep portentous sound,  
From gladdened Elbe to startled Tiber heard.”

In the early summer of 1846 the obnoxious Corn Laws were repealed, and in the following month the Cabinet of Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston, and Lord Grey took the place of that of Sir Robert Peel, in which the Duke of Wellington had formed part, though without a portfolio. In February (1845) the Queen goes to Brighton with Lady Lyttelton and the whole of the royal children. The visit was not a particularly pleasant one. Whenever Her Majesty appeared she was closely followed by an over-inquisitive mob, and the walks and drives she delighted in became almost impossible. “ Mr. Punch ” came gallantly to the rescue with a picture not very complimentary to the snobbery of which the Queen with just reason complained, and an article on what was described very humorously as “ The New Royal Hunt.” “ It has been held, as the lawyers have it,” said the writer, “ that a cat may look at a king, but it is not to be tolerated that a set of unmannerly curs should poke their noses under the bonnet of a Queen, as was the case the other day at Brighton.”

<sup>\*</sup> See *ante*, pp. 161–163.

† Frederic, Elector of Saxony, surnamed “ the Wise.”

## An Amusing Anecdote

It is not impossible that the Brighton episode hastened the purchase of the Osborne estate, which was now finally resolved on and carried out. It was at this time that Prince Albert found time to compose the anthem, "Out of the deep have I called unto Thee," and the following anecdote found its way into the public papers. "It may not be generally known," wrote a contemporary chronicler, "that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is Duke of Rothesay as well as Duke of Cornwall, which, it would appear from the following incident that recently occurred, was either unknown to or forgotten by his royal father. One morning a card was presented at Buckingham Palace to H.R.H. Prince Albert, upon which was engraved 'The Duke of Rothesay,' and an audience solicited. His Royal Highness seemed puzzled, and repeated the name several times, saying that he did not recollect having heard of the nobleman, but he consented to give an audience and ordered the Duke of Rothesay to be shown in, when he was agreeably surprised to see the Heir Apparent in full Highland costume, attended by Her Majesty's piper. The above amusing incident was productive of some entertainment in the Royal Circle."

The prudence of a royal visit to Ireland is discussed, and *Punch* comes out with a capital cartoon, the "Demon of Discord," in which a well-known portly figure\* is seen vanishing through a pantomime trap on the appearance of the Queen. The idea was abandoned, and towards the end of June the Royal Family proceed to Osborne House. In July the Queen is back once more in London, where the historic *pas-de-quatre* danced by Taglioni, Carlotta Grisi, Lucille Grahn and Cerito is

\* That of Daniel O'Connell,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

creating a veritable sensation. The second *bal costumé* now takes place at Buckingham Palace. It was scarcely as successful as that of 1842. The period of powder did not lend itself to *mise-en-scène* as well as the epoch of armour. *Punch* deals with it in a cartoon in which the Queen is supposed to be pointing out a number of well-known personages, duly bewigged, to one of Louis Philippe's sons. Beneath it ran the legend, "Come, dear Nemours, and look at my dolls." It was about this time that Sir Harris Nicolas discovered Nelson's coat and waistcoat in the possession of the widow of an alderman of London. Prince Albert at once paid £150 for them and presented them to the nation. His generosity did not at once meet with the reward it merited, for the press continued to carp at a good many much needed reforms in which he was then engaged, and the Laureate is supposed to condole with his ever busy equerries in a sympathetic sonnet of which the following is a specimen :

"Anson and Bouverie, unhappy pair !  
How grievously it wounds the feeling heart

\* \* \* \*

Albert, your gracious Prince, is not a Turk ;  
Then why not beg him to abate your work ? "

*Punch* continues his attentions to the Prince of Wales, and thus alludes to an interview with the King of the Netherlands, who sojourns for a few days at Buckingham Palace : "The King of the Netherlands having expressed a desire to see *les chevreuils de la Reine*, was conducted to the royal nursery, where he had an audience of the Prince of Wales. It was explained to His Majesty that the royal infant was *le lièvre de la couronne* (the heir to the crown). He was invited by His Royal Diminutiveness to inspect his set of ring-taws.



THE ROYAL FAMILY  
IN THE GARDENS OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
*from a colour-print of 1815*





## “Mr. Punch” as Regent-Extraordinary

The King of the Netherlands asked if they were the celebrated Elgin marbles.”

The Queen and Prince Albert had for some time meditated a visit to Coburg and Germany, and on the day of their departure for the Continent (August 8, 1845) Her Majesty makes the following entry in her journal :

“August 8.—A very fine morning when we got up. Both Vicky and Alice were with me while I dressed. ‘Why am I not going to Germany?’ asked the eldest. Most willingly would I have taken her, and wished much to have taken one of dearest Albert’s children to Coburg; but the journey is a serious undertaking, particularly the first time, and she is very young, too; but what chiefly decides me is a visit to the King of Prussia, where I could not have looked after her.”

It was on the occasion of this brief absence from home that the Queen commenced writing letters to her children—to the five-year-old Princess first of all. “Mr. Punch,” who so heroically assumed the rôle of “tutor-in-ordinary” to the Prince of Wales, now poses as “regent-extraordinary” of the whole kingdom. He addresses (August 23) a sonnet to the half-deserted palace beginning with the lines :

“I wonder what the Royal children do,  
Now that their gracious parents are away;  
Whether like mice, when puss is out, they play;  
And turn their princely nursery upside down.”

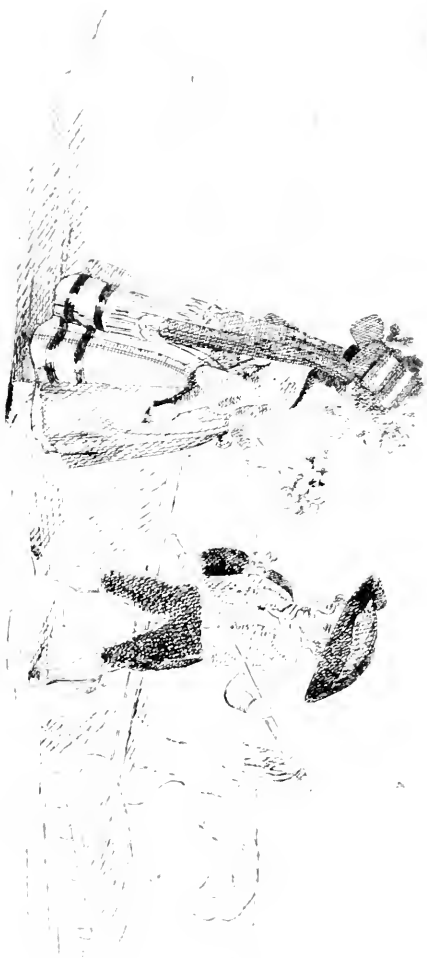
His reign was of very brief duration. Next week appears John Leech’s cartoon: “There’s no place like home,” in which the whole of the Royal Family figure. Prince Albert is made to wear a very foreign cap, and *Punch*, brimming over with virtuous

## The Boyhood of a Great King

indignation, has a great deal to say on the iniquity of deer-drives. A spelling-book is improvised for the Prince of Wales (the Sage of Fleet Street has seemingly resumed his tutorial functions) limited to words of one syllable. The first sentence in it runs: 'The Deer is a poor weak Brute which it is good to kill.' There is also a cartoon in which the Court pastimes of Queen Victoria are contrasted with those of Queen Elizabeth. On the return journey a flying visit had been paid to King Louis Philippe, who was already meditating mischief in the matter of the Spanish marriage. A miscalculation as to the state of the tide is said to have caused the landing of the illustrious guests to take place in a bathing-machine. Nobody probably enjoyed Leech's excellent sketch of the French king driving, the Queen inside, waving her handkerchief from the window, and her liege lord sitting astride the roof wearing a pronounced Coburg hat, half as much as Prince Albert. This, at least, was merriment after his own heart: "There was not water enough to allow of Her Majesty's landing in the customary manner. Louis Philippe, however, was not to be baffled, and he thought at once of a bathing-machine for which Crickett or Foat of Margate would give any money, since it has been immortalised by a royal progress."\*

In the following month the Prince of Wales and his brother and sisters are once more occupying their airy nurseries and play-rooms overlooking the South Terrace at Windsor. The "Court Newsman" (October 18) announces that "Her Majesty, accompanied by H.R.H. Prince Albert, walked this morning across to the royal aviary and visited the Queen's kennel on their return to the Castle. T.R.H.

\* *Punch*, vol. ix., July-December, 1845, p. 134.



VICTORIA (PRINCESS ROYAL) AND ALBERT (PRINCE OF WALES) AS GOTHIA PEASANTS  
DRAWN AND ENGRAVED BY GREEN VICTORIA, AFTER SIR W. ROSS, JANUARY 1842



## The King's Fourth Birthday

the Prince of Wales and the Princesses Royal and Alice took equestrian exercise this morning on their Shetland pony in the private plantation. Prince Alfred was also taken out for exercise on the Slopes."

The fourth birthday of the Prince of Wales falls on Sunday, so it is kept with high festival on the following day (Monday November 10, 1845). The bells of St. George's Chapel and the Parish Church rang merrily, and at twelve o'clock a royal salute was fired from the Corporation Ordnance in Bachelors' Acre. Some of the houses of the tradesmen were illuminated in honour of the event. A royal salute was fired at noon from the Belvidere battery. An ode to the Prince of Wales appears :

"Child of the Palace, lisping thy sweet way  
Through infancy's untroubled realms of light ;  
Whose years, like summer butterflies, do play around thee  
And thou dost not miss their flight !  
Thou unto braver boyhood now dost sing  
Thy buoyant way with playful grace, and free,  
And feelest thyself caress'd—' the future King  
Of Proudest Empire that surmounts the Sea.'

\* \* \* \* \*

"The heart—still keep the heart !—let every year  
Hear its fine pulses ever warm and loud ;  
Shall the kindling people hold thee dear  
And be all England of thy Birthday proud.  
Watch thee to manhood with proud eyes of love,  
And stir with loyalty that never fails—  
Bid the Old Nation's honest spirit move  
To greet and bless VICTORIA'S PRINCE OF WALES.

A short sojourn at Osborne intervened between these high rejoicings and the usual Christmas jollity at Windsor Castle, when a splendid baron of beef, weighing upwards of 300 lbs., was served at the royal dinner. Christmases were still "merry" in the "forties," and nobody was a whit the worse for it.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

The fifth year of the life of the Prince of Wales began with a happy example of the manner in which he was initiated by the Queen and Prince Albert into the active exercise of practical philanthropy. He was present on the occasion of the distribution of Her Majesty's New Year's dole for the benefit of poor and needy families residing within the Borough of Windsor. It took place in the riding-school, where tables were covered with loaves, joints of meat, and half a ton of plum-pudding. The recipients amounted to seven hundred, and were divided into four classes by the local clergy. One hundred and fifty blankets were also given away. For the first time the traditional ale was eliminated from the programme.

In February the Court removes to Osborne. Here (March 3, 1846), the Queen writes: "Albert is so happy here—out all day planting, directing, &c., and it is so good for him. It is a relief to be away from all the bitterness which people create for themselves in London."

Before Easter the Prince of Wales was to commence his lengthy career as the friend and patron of the drama. Astley's Amphitheatre, where the memories of its original founders and the great Ducrow still lingered, was to be the scene of this important event. To-day not one stone of it remains upon another. The home of the two Astleys, Ducrow and Widdicombe, is as clean gone as its near neighbours Vauxhall and Ranelagh, or the Bankside theatres associated with the fame and achievements of William Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. It was the afternoon of Tuesday, March 24, that the Queen and Prince Albert, with the doubtless highly delighted and much excited Prince of Wales and Princess Royal, set out from Bucking-

## A Visit to Astley's

ham Palace for the Westminster Bridge Road. The following advertisement will give an idea of what the spectacle provided for their entertainment consisted :

### ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.

Proprietor : MR. WILLIAM BATTY.

Most positively the last week before the Easter Holidays.

Immense Novelty which will combine the attractive entertainments expressly prepared by Royal Command on the occasion of the visit of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal to the Amphitheatre on Tuesday, the 24th next.

The last six reproductions of

“THE ELEPHANTS OF THE PAGODA.”

on

Monday, March 30.

and five following evenings.

The highly popular spectacle of “The Rajah of Nagpore” from the “Scenes of the Circle,” in which Mr. Batty will have the honour of appearing with his celebrated Arabian mare, Beda, on which performance Royalty has been pleased to bestow the most marked encomiums.

The performance will conclude with a novel afterpiece.

Box Office open from 11 to 5. Equestrian tuition daily.

*Stage Manager* : MR. T. THOMPSON.

The first announcement of the great event ran thus :

“THE ROYAL VISIT TO ASTLEY'S.

“On Tuesday, pursuant to Royal Command, a grand equestrian performance took place at Astley's Amphitheatre, which was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. Mr. W. Batty, the lessee, had superbly fitted up for the royal party a box in the centre of the dress

## The Boyhood of a Great King

circle, and the theatre was gorgeously decorated. The visit was strictly private. Her Majesty, Prince Albert and their illustrious children and attendants arrived soon after 4 o'clock, and were immediately ushered into the royal box by Mr. Batty and Mr. T. Thompson, the stage manager, to whom at the close of the entertainment the Queen and Prince Albert expressed their entire approval of the arrangements."

The same issue of the *Illustrated London News* curiously enough contains a portrait of Liston, the celebrated comedian, who had just died at his residence in one of those old-fashioned houses in Knightsbridge which has, like Astley's theatre, disappeared from the face of the earth. The public wanted to know a great deal more about the good luck of Mr. Batty, and in the following week the prevailing thirst for information was gratified by what is known in legal phraseology as "fuller and better particulars."

The same number of the paper gives on the first page a picture of the Royal Family at Astley's. The Heir to the Throne occupies the right-hand corner of the box next to the Prince Consort, the Princess Royal sitting at the opposite end of it by the side of the Queen. A long account is given of the elaborate fitting up of the theatre. It appeared that the Foot Guards lined the passages, whilst sentries were placed at the stage door, and detachments in the stable and at the front entrance in the Westminster Bridge Road. Very elaborate programmes were printed in honour of the occasion. The performance was described as "a grand equestrian day representation," the riding-masters being Mr. R. Smith and Mr. Widdicombe. There was a variety of graceful feats by M. and Mme.



## Birth of Princess Christian

Dumos, Miss Isabella M. Hinie, and the brothers Candelers. Besides the lilliputian equestrian scene of 1754, Mr. R. Smith introduced his splendid steeds Beauty and Selim, and Mr. Batty led out his admired mare Beda. The day was altogether an auspicious one, for it almost exactly coincided with the announcement of the great victory which ended the Sikh War.

"Mr. Punch," who never tired of acting as Mentor to the Telemachus of the Prince of Wales, had, as might be expected, his say about the royal visit to Astley's. "Juvenile Royalty," he says with becoming gravity, "must not be left to the absurd supposition that the Battle of Waterloo was fought between 18 Scotch Greys, headed by twelve Field Marshals, against Buonaparte, with a brilliant staff, leading on eight cuirassiers and one Mameluke. . . . History as taught at Astley's is an amusing but not a healthy style of instruction. The illustrious Michelet was 'sold' when he went to see Mr. Gomersal as Napoleon, and ran wildly into the Westminster Bridge Road declaring that the authors of the piece had endeavoured to stab the honour of France with the steel pen of the dramatist. In order to avoid mistakes of this sort on the part of the infant Prince and Princesses, we repeat our warning, that historical dramas should always be taken *cum grano salis*—with a chapter of Pinnock."\*

On May 6 the Queen's fifth child and third daughter, the Princess Helena (Princess Christian), was born. Her Majesty as usual made a very happy recovery.

On May 30 the "Court Newsman" signals the appearance "on the evening of Thursday (May 21), of three Highland dwarfs named MacKiney, natives

\* *Punch*, vol. x., April 4, 1845, p. 155.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of the county of Ross, before the whole Royal Family at Buckingham Palace, where they went through a series of national dances and songs, of which Her Majesty was pleased to express approbation. The oldest, Finlay, was 23 years old, 45 inches high, and weighed 5 stone 11 lbs. His brother, John, aged 21, was 44 inches high and 5 stone 3 lbs. in weight, and the sister, Mary, aged 19, was the same height as John, and weighed 7 lbs. more." Lord Brougham was credited with being their social sponsor. Tom Thumb, their natural rival, is once more in London, but received no further summons to the presence of Royalty. *The Times* waxes wroth and declares "that the display of a disgusting dwarf attracted hordes of gaping idiots, who poured into the pockets of a Yankee showman a stream of wealth one tithe of which would have redeemed an honourable English artist from wretchedness and death." In a facetious letter signed "Gloriana Westend," *Punch* now takes up the cudgels for his pet aversion of a former year. "Mrs. Westend," in a P.S. alludes to the Highland dwarfs now honoured with Royal patronage as "the little dear loves who have danced their native flings and reels at Buckingham Palace." A change of Ministry is imminent, and *Punch's* list of probable appointments includes :

General Tom Thumb . . . .	Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor	
Chancellor of the Exchequer	} The Three Highland Dwarfs
Minister of the Home Department	
The other Appointments . .	The Pigmy Children

Be this as it may, "Astley's," having taken a new lease of life, was for some years to come persistently

## Dwarfs and Midgets

advertised as "patronised by Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen, Prince Albert, The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal."

In August Prince Albert visits King Leopold, and at the end of the same month an anonymous group of the Royal Family appears in *Punch* with the words "A Case of Real Distress." It possesses no particular point, but indicates the first attempt at something like a likeness of the Prince of Wales, who had already sat over twenty times to various painters for his portrait.

The latter part of August and the early days of September were spent at Osborne, of which place the Queen and Prince Albert are evidently growing increasingly fond. A popular *fête* was given there in celebration of Prince Albert's birthday (August 26); the Prince of Wales was present and his health was proposed and drunk with great enthusiasm. Such a *fête* had never been witnessed in the Isle of Wight before. "The rustic sports, consisting of jumping in sacks, quoits, leap-frog, hopping and running, caused great amusement to the Royal children, who were skipping and dancing, the whole of them—to the royal baby in the nurse's arms—being present."

From August 18 to 25 (prior to the *fête champêtre*) a very enjoyable yachting excursion took place, in the course of which Portland, Weymouth (always affectionately remembered by the Queen on account of its associations with the reign of George III., and now adorned with a handsome statue of her late Majesty), Dartmouth and Plymouth were all visited. On anchoring in Babbicombe Bay [August 20] the Queen made the following note in her Journal: "It is a beautiful spot, which before we had only passed at a distance.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Red cliff and rocks with wooded hills like Italy, and reminding one of a ballet or play where nymphs are to appear—such rocks and grottoes, with the deepest sea, on which there was not a ripple. . . . We tried to sketch the part looking towards Torbay. I never saw our good children looking better, or in higher spirits. I continued to give Vicky a little lesson by making her read in her English history. . . . Crowds of boats are surrounding us on all sides.” Next day [August 21] Plymouth is reached, and Her Majesty once more resumes the pen: “At half-past nine we entered the splendid harbour of Plymouth and anchored again below Mount Edgumbe, which, with its beautiful trees, including pines, growing down into the sea, looks more lovely than ever. I changed my dress and read innumerable letters and despatches, and then went on deck and saw the authorities—the Admirals and Generals. I did Vicky’s lessons and wrote.” The children were left on board, and Her Majesty and the Prince Consort with all their suite embarked on the *Fairy* for a cruise up the Tamar, going first a little way up the St. Germans river to see Trematon Castle, “which,” the Queen wrote, “belongs to Bertie as Duke of Cornwall.” On August 22 a visit to Mount Edgumbe is made, “where,” writes Queen Victoria, “we were welcomed by Lady Mount Edgumbe and her two boys,\* Prince Albert going to Dartmoor. The children went with their governess and the other

\* Lady Mount Edgumbe, wife of the third Earl of Mount Edgumbe, daughter of Admiral and Lady Elizabeth Fielding, died November 1881. Her two sons were Lord Valletort (now Earl of Mount Edgumbe), born 1832 (see *post*, p. 355.), and the Honble. Colonel C. E. Edgumbe, born 1838. Lord Valletort, who was fourteen in 1846, succeeded to the title in 1861.



KING EDWARD VII. AS A SAILOR, 1846-7

AFTER A PAINTING BY F. WINTERHALTER



## A Trip to Guernsey

children into the shade and had luncheon in the house."

On September 2 the Queen and the Prince Consort, with their two elder children, once more embarked on board the *Victoria and Albert* bound for the Channel Islands. Neither the Prince nor his sister landed in Guernsey, but we learn on reliable authority, that "Her Majesty was attired in a very plain manner, wearing a white bonnet, lined with pink, a green and white plaid dress, and a scarlet and gold scarf. Her parasol was of mazarine. Her Majesty wore her hair plain and had blended in her countenance an air of affable condescension yet courteous dignity. The Prince was attired in dark coat, dark coloured lavender trousers, and silk waistcoat, varied with green flowers. The little Prince of Wales went on deck dressed as a sailor. A glazed hat, a check shirt, a handkerchief around his collar tied in a sailor's knot as a sailor, blue jacket and white trousers were his costume. The sailors gave the Royal Sailor nine times nine and when this was over he ordered grog to be given to each of them."

The marine excursion awoke very little enthusiasm in the heart of "Mr. Punch," who at first contented himself with observing that "while Guernsey has been honoured by royal notice what must be the feelings of Alderney and Sark at their exclusion from a share of royal patronage? We feel that Alderney will feel itself terribly Cowed, while Sark will almost sink into a premature sarcophagus."

A little later on he expressed a conviction that "The visit to Guernsey has occasioned much disappointment, as the inhabitants had expected to see Her Majesty arrive in her coronation robes, with the sceptre in one hand and the ball in the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

other . . . they could not believe that a Queen would wear a white chip bonnet, or anything else but crimson and ermine." The anecdote of the Prince of Wales, however, gave John Leech the opportunity of a lifetime. His cartoon "Every Inch a Sailor" is immortal. In it the five year-old Prince of Wales in nautical attire is depicted on the deck of the yacht, offering a huge glass of grog to a still larger Jack Tar, who has doffed his hat, and is pulling his forelock in grateful acknowledgment—*Punch*, of course, at the helm, and Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence on the bridge, while the Queen (parasol in hand) and Prince Albert look on admiringly. The accompanying text richly deserves to live in history. Under the appropriate heading "The Sailor Prince" we are told that "As Britannia happens to rule the waves it is very desirable that we should have a somebody who is superior to the waves, for the office of ruling Britannia. It is gratifying to know that not only is Her Majesty a capital sailoress, but her son, the little Duke of Cornwall, is every inch—that is, every one of his 28 inches of height—a sailor. The young scion of Royalty, during the recent cruise, skipped about the deck as jollily as the skipper himself, and ordered extra allowances of grog to the men, with the true spirit of British seamanship." After dwelling on the limited extent of the little Tar's outfit and the expedient resorted to in order to make up for its shortcomings, we are assured "that His Royal Highness has already adopted some of the phraseology peculiar to the naval service, and has once or twice expressed a desire to have his little timbers shivered. He is frequently engaged in practising the hornpipe so completely identified with the naval service of his country, and he already knows the name of every



## A Royal Midshipman

rope, spar and brace that is required in a vessel. He sings none but naval songs, and his execution of 'We tars have a maxim,' is considered by all who have heard it to be one of the finest pieces of nautical vocalisation in the English language." John Leech and "Mr. Punch" between them are responsible for the sailor-costumes which for two generations have supplanted the hideous juvenile attire of the early Victorian epoch.

In her Journal Queen Victoria makes the following entries about the cruise to Jersey: "On board the *Victoria and Albert* off St. Heliers, Jersey, Wednesday, September 2, 1846.—At a quarter past seven o'clock we set off with Vicky, Bertie, Lady Jocelyn, Miss Kerr, Mdle. Grüner, Lord Spencer, Lord Palmerston and Sir James Clark and embarked at Osborne Pier. . . . After passing the Alderney Race it became quite smooth, and then Bertie put on his sailor's dress, which was beautifully made by the men on board who make for our sailors. When he appeared the officers and sailors who were all assembled on deck to see him, cheered and seemed delighted with him."

The royal excursion was extended in the direction of the coast of Devon, and that delightful line of littoral further westwards, now known throughout the length and breadth of the land as the Cornish Riviera. The squadron first touched at Falmouth, proceeding thence to Mount's Bay. An excellent story is told of an incident which, on one of those balmy September days of 1846, happened on board the *Victoria and Albert* to the Heir Apparent, who was rated on her books as a midshipman. The Prince's outfit was not of an extravagant character. It consisted of only one white duck jacket and pair of trousers and one blue suit, the former soiled by

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the youngster's pranks on deck. He was bound to appear neat and trim to muster on the Sunday morning, and this he was enabled to do by the good-nature of the captain of the foretop who washed his white jacket and trousers on Saturday night, and dried them by the fire, and for want of a mangling apparatus or an ironing box sat on them to get them smooth, giving them the appearance of a first rate man-of-war wash. Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence on Sunday morning, when all hands were called to muster, noticed the cleanly appearance of the attire, and on inquiring learnt this little circumstance which, on being repeated to Her Majesty, was the subject of much amusement both to the Queen and Prince Albert. It is difficult after the lapse of more than half a century to realise the rapturous enthusiasm with which the five-year-old Duke of Cornwall was greeted on arriving within the boundaries of his own dominion. The Queen writes of all that took place with the simple sincerity which makes her Journal such charming reading :

“Mounts Bay, September 5.—During our voyage I was able to give Vicky her lessons. At three o'clock we all got into the barge, including the children and Mdle. Grüner their governess, and rowed through an avenue of boats to the *Fairy*, where we went on board. . . . We steamed round the bay to look at St. Michael's Mount from the other side, which is even more beautiful, and then went on to Penzance. . . . We remained here a little while without going on, in order to sketch, and returned to the *Victoria and Albert* by half-past four, the boats crowding round us in all directions, and when Bertie showed himself the people shouted, ‘Three cheers for the Duke of Cornwall!’ ”

## The Duke in his Duchy

From Mounts Bay the Royal yachts returned to Falmouth. In the course of the voyage the Queen, Prince Albert and the young Prince and Princess landed at Kynance Cove near the Lizard Point, and remained there for some time picking up shells and other natural curiosities. After their arrival in the *Fal* the Queen again resumed her narrative : “ Falmouth, Monday, September 7.—Immediately after breakfast Albert left me, to land and visit some mines. The Corporation of Penryn\* were on board, and very anxious to see the Duke of Cornwall, so I stepped out of the pavilion on deck with Bertie, and Lord Palmerston told them this was the Duke of Cornwall, and the old Mayor of Penryn said, ‘ he hoped he would grow up a blessing to his parents and to his country.’ A little after four o’clock we all got into the barge, with the two children, and rowed to the *Fairy*. . . . We went up the Truro (Fal) which is beautiful. . . . From Malpas one can see Truro, the capital of Cornwall. We stopped here awhile as so many boats came out from a little place called Sunny Corner, just below Truro, in order to see us. . . . They cheered and were enchanted when Bertie was held up for them to see. It was a very pretty, gratifying sight.” “ Tuesday, September 8.—A wet morning when we rose and breakfasted with the children.”

On Wednesday, the 9th, the whole party were once more in the the Isle of Wight.

As to the events of the next week there is a serious

\* The first visits of King Edward VII. to the West in 1846 are still well remembered by the “oldest inhabitants.” The Mayor of Penryn thus mentioned by the Queen was Mr. Alexander Teague. The other Mayors who paid their respects to the Queen and the Duke of Cornwall were Mr. Benjamin Parham (Plymouth), Mr. W. R. Broad (Falmouth), Mr. Edward Bolitho (Penzance), Mr. Clement Carlyon (Truro), and Mr. William Devenish (Weymouth).

## The Boyhood of a Great King

discrepancy between two of Queen Victoria's most notable biographers. Sir Theodore Martin\* mentions September 15, 1846, as the first night of the occupancy of the new portion of Osborne House, but the Duke of Argyll gives the date as December 16.

Mr. Patchett Martin is in accord with the former.† Lady Lyttelton thus describes what took place in a letter‡ dated Osborne House, September 16, 1846: "Our first night in this house is well passed. Nobody complained of the smell of paint or caught cold, and the worst is over. Everything in the house is quite new, and the drawing-room looks very handsome. The lights of the lamps in the windows in this room must have been seen out at sea. At dinner we were to drink the Queen's and the Prince's health as a house-warming, and after it the Prince said very simply and seriously: 'We have a psalm in Germany for such occasions,' and then quoted it. It was 'to bless our going out and coming in, our daily bread and all we do; bless us to a blessed dying, and make us heirs of heaven.' It was dry and quaint, being Luther's."

Early in September Queen Adelaide had taken up her abode at Cassiobury, near Watford, the ancient and picturesque seat of the Earls of Essex, since famous as the aboriginal home of croquet. The then owner had a weakness for picnic parties, and was even credited with the forethought of providing excursionists with the necessary plate. Cassiobury was a "show place," full of all sorts of relics of the past, including amongst other treasures the handkerchief which Lord Coningsby applied to the wounded shoulder of King William III. at

\* "Life of the Prince Consort," vol. i. p. 339.

† "V.R.I." p. 173.

‡ "The Queen in the Isle of Wight," 1898, p. 8.



THE ROYAL CHILDREN IN THE HOME PARK, WINDSOR

*From a contemporary colour-print, etc., 1816*



## Queen Victoria at Cassiobury

the battle of the Boyne, and a large series of dramatic miniatures and valuable pictures. In the grounds were two enormous granite cannon balls which had been fired from the Castle of Abydos, at the entrance of the Dardanelles into the *Endymion* frigate in 1807. Beneath one of them is the following inscription: "These shots of granite, from the ruins of Alexandria, were fired from the Castle of Abydos, on the Asiatic side of the entrance of the Straits of the Dardanelles into the *Endymion* frigate, commanded by the Honble. Captain Bladen Capel, when the Squadron under the command of Sir John Duckworth entered the Straits in the year 1807. The larger shot weighs upwards of seven cwt., and was fired at the distance of a quarter of a mile; the losses, killed and wounded, 15 men."

After the return of the Court to Windsor it was decided that the Queen and Prince Albert should pay a visit to Queen Adelaide at Cassiobury and Lord Salisbury at Hatfield. Rumours of great doings at Windsor in honour of the Prince of Wales's fifth birthday are already rife. On October 12 the Queen Dowager had seen the Queen at Windsor Castle. On the 19th Her Majesty and Prince Albert drove to Cassiobury by way of Uxbridge, Harefield, Pinner and Batchworth Heath. On alighting they were received by the Queen Dowager, the Princess of Hesse, and the lords and ladies in waiting. A large party was assembled to meet them. Amongst the guests were the Countess of Gainsborough, Earl Howe, and the youthful Ladies Adelaide and Emily Curzon. During their stay at Cassiobury, excursions were made to Stanmore Priory, Moor Park, and other places. On the 21st the Queen found time to pen the following characteristic little letter to the Princess Royal at Windsor:

## The Boyhood of a Great King

"Cassiobury Park,  
"October 21, 1846.

"MY DEAREST VICKY,—Your little letter has given your dear Papa and me great pleasure. We were very sorry to leave you and Bertie and the others and we shall be very glad to see you again on Saturday.

"We hope you will continue to be all good and obedient children.

"This place is comfortable but dark, and not cheerful. We are however very happy to be with dear good Aunt Adelaide who saw your letter. There are two nice little girls here, Adelaide and Emily Curzon.\*

"Now good bye my good little Vicky. Your dearest Papa sends you a kiss and so do I.

"Ever your very affte. Mama,  
"V.R."

The Queen evidently takes special pains to make her own writing sufficiently legible to enable the recipient to read it.

From Cassiobury the Queen proceeded to Hatfield. Mr. Holmes tells us she was glad to meet Lord Melbourne, whom she had not seen since his retirement from office. As had been arranged for some weeks the fifth anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Wales was celebrated with great rejoicings at Windsor Castle on Monday, November 9. Both the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred wore Scotch costumes. The band of the Life Guards once more performed "The Prince of Wales' Quickstep," a march composed for the Prince's birthday of

\* Lady Adelaide Ida Curzon married in 1857 the late Earl of Westmoreland, who died in 1891. Her sister, Lady Emily Mary, woman of the bedchamber to Queen Alexandra, married in the same year Colonel Sir Robert Nigel Kingscote, K.C.B.





Cassiobury Park  
Oct. 21. 1846.

My dearest Vicky,

Your little letter  
has given your dear  
Papa and me  
great pleasure.

We were very sorry  
to leave you and Ber-  
tie and the others and  
we shall be very

FACSIMILE OF COMPLETE LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 21, 1846,  
FROM QUEEN VICTORIA AT CASSIOBURY PARK  
TO THE PRINCESS ROYAL AT WINDSOR

glad to see you again  
on Saturday. —

We hope you will  
continue to be all  
good and obedient  
Children; —

This place is com-  
fortable but dark  
and not cheerful.  
We are however  
very happy to be  
with dear, good



Aunt Adelaide  
who saw your letter.  
There are two nice  
little girls here, Ade-  
laide and Emily  
Curzon. —

Now good bye  
My good little Vicky  
Your dearest Papa  
Sends you a kiss &  
so do I. Ever your  
very affec<sup>d</sup> Mama  
S.R. —



## One More Birthday

1842 by the Duchess of Kent, who on this occasion paid the Queen a visit of congratulation. A banquet was given in the evening in the grand dining-hall and a public dinner took place in the town, presided over by Mr. Neville, one of the members for the Borough. At the former an enormous cake, manufactured by Mr. Mawditt, Her Majesty's first yeoman-confectioner, was placed on the banqueting table in the Castle in the morning and partaken of by Her Majesty's royal and illustrious guests. A portrait of the young Prince is given in the next issue of *The Illustrated London News*, and two odes in honour of his birthday are published, the first of them commencing with the verse :

“ The voice of nations rises on the gale,  
Across the Island of the brave and free,  
On this, thy festival, to bid thee hail  
Young Lord of Empire over land and sea !  
Great as thy heritage is great to be  
It is no greater than the hope we twine  
With the fair years of thy futurity.  
Thou scion of sceptre-bearing line  
Oh ! Heir to all its power—be all its virtues thine.”

The other composition is more martial in its conception, two of its couplets being the following :

“ There's Scotland in her bonnet blue  
Steady and firm as rock of steel !  
Her tartans waved at Waterloo,  
When onward rushed the sturdy ‘ *Chiel*.’  
There's England's glorious chivalry  
And Erin's lance that seldom fails ;  
Match me old Earth ! these nations through  
Whose shields bear up the Prince of Wales.

“ Fair child, thy years are barely five,  
And yet to them the freeborn wave  
Hath welcome been, where ‘ Jack's Alive.’  
Right well thou lov'st the sailor brave,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

For Nelson, Nile and Trafalgar  
Are not yet quite forgotten . . . Quails  
The Tricolor before the Tar,  
Who ramparts well the Prince of Wales."

Another visit is paid to Osborne (November 18), and three days later, the sixth birthday of the Princess Royal (now the Queen's correspondent) is duly fêted there; while at Osborne the Queen and Prince Albert go to Arundel Castle, where they are entertained by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk. As usual Christmas is kept at Windsor Castle, and both the Queen and her husband showed much interest in the Royal School, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, now completed. Christmas was commemorated with the various observances which reminded Prince Albert of old days at Rosenau, and the frost was so severe that on the last day of the year he was able to captain the victorious side in an exciting game of hockey played on the frozen surface of the lake.

## CHAPTER IX

### FROM GOVERNESS TO TUTOR: HOME LIFE AT WINDSOR, OSBORNE, AND BALMORAL

1847-1850

THE fifth birthday of the Prince of Wales (November 9, 1846) marks in many ways an epoch in the annals of his boyhood. Amongst the visitors invited by the Queen to Windsor on that occasion was Madame de Bunsen, whose letters\* throw an interesting light on the nursery-life which was gradually shaping the receptive mind of the Heir Apparent for the serious studies of the school-room. In a letter to Mrs. Waddington dated Carlton House Terrace, November 13, 1846, this observant lady writes :

“ . . . I was invited to Windsor Castle to spend the birthday of the Prince of Wales, for the first time, as it is not usual with the Queen to have foreign guests on that occasion. In the morning I accompanied the Royal party to the terrace to see the troops, who fired a *feu de joie* in honour of the Prince of Wales, who enjoyed it much, in extreme seriousness and returned duly, by a military salute, the salutation he received as the colours passed. I inquired of Prince Albert whether he had formed any idea yet of his position at this early age (five years). He told me that last month in travelling through Cornwall, he had asked for an explanation

\* “Memoirs of Baron de Bunsen,” vol. ii. p. 120.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of the cheers accompanying the cry of 'The Duke of Cornwall for ever!' When Prince Albert informed him that there had been, long ago, a great and good Prince of Wales, called the Black Prince, who was also Duke of Cornwall, and he had been so beloved and adored that people had not forgotten him, and the title being given to the eldest son of the Sovereign, together with that of Prince of Wales, it ought to teach him to emulate the merits of that great Prince in order to be equally beloved and remembered.

"I had brought with me German books for the children, and received permission to present them. The Queen brought the Royal Family into the corridor after luncheon on purpose to give me that opportunity. The Prince wanted to have the pictures explained, and I *sat on the floor* in the midst of the group; we all spoke German, and the Princess Royal, by desire of the Queen, read a fable out of one of the books perfectly well. The Queen often spoke with me about education, and in particular of religious instruction. Her views are very serious but at the same time liberal and comprehensive. She (as well as Prince Albert) hates all formalism."

Six weeks later (December 31, 1846), she again writes :

" . . . To return to Windsor Castle (whence I just perceive the dawn of the last day of the year, looking towards the Long Walk)—the Queen is a wife and a mother as happy as the happiest in her dominions, and no one can be more careful of her charges. She often speaks to me of the great task before her and the Prince in the education of the Royal children, and particularly of the Prince of



## Lady Lyttelton on "Princey"

Wales and the Princess Royal. She brought them all into the corridor the day before yesterday, to shake hands with me. . . ."

As might be expected the five-year-old Prince becomes more and more the subject of good stories. His biographer of 1859 informs us that just about this time he sat to Burnand the Cornish sculptor for a bust.\* A room was fitted up for the artist near the nursery, and he used to say afterwards that he heard many a rumpus (why not a "row royal"?) amongst the children. Miss Hildyard, of whom frequent mention is made in Queen Victoria's Journal, was now his principal attendant and teacher. Although she familiarly called him "Princey" (as seemingly did Lady Lyttelton), "the young gentleman," writes "A," "was fully aware of his own importance, and while sitting to Burnand always expected a stool to be placed for him when he wished to rest his royal feet. He was never still and talked a great deal. He entreated Burnand to let him model his own face; so Burnand made him a cast to fill with clay and amuse himself; with this he was very much delighted, and when he had filled his cast he brought it to Burnand to look at. And being full of fun he merrily dashed it in the poor artist's face."

The Princess Alice (now in her fourth year) was at this time the constant playfellow of her elder brother. Her brightness, good temper and sweetness of disposition soon made her the favourite of all the inmates of the royal nursery, but possibly the pretty anecdote of her kind-heartedness told by

\* Nevill Northey Burnand, born 1818, died 1878. Obtained in 1832 the first prize of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society for a cast of the Laocoon. Exhibitor at the Royal Academy 1855-1867.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the late Empress Frederick of Germany,\* occurred somewhat later. One of the Queen's dressers was unusually tall, so much so that when she passed through the corridor, where the Royal children were playing, the Prince of Wales made it the subject of a joke. Thinking it might pain her the little Princess rejoined: "It is very nice to be tall; Papa would like us all to be tall."

*Punch*, who alludes in terms of sympathy to the presence of the Prince of Wales at the distribution of the New Year's gifts already referred to, says: "It is with warm and unaffected satisfaction that we call attention to a distribution of beef, bread, and pudding, to the poor on New Year's Day, in the presence of Her Majesty at Windsor. Nor were the interior linings of the needy the sole subject of regard, for there were blankets, cloaks, rolls of flannel, and other materials, intended to provide comfortable external covering for the recipients of the royal bounty. A slice of beef is well enough for the hour, but a good bit of flannel will last the entire season. Pudding is delicious for the day, but there is more permanent advantage in a petticoat." The interior arrangements of the new House of Lords are now in progress and a discussion arises as to the dimensions of the chair-of-state for the accommodation of the Heir Apparent to be placed near the throne. *Punch*, on January 30, thus deals with the whole question: "The pretty little chair to be placed to the right of the Throne for the pretty little Prince of Wales, has been a general object of affectionate interest. Unfortunately, however, while his Royal Highness is happily growing bigger every year, the pretty little chair never grows at all, and there must be a sad want of

\* *Vide* "Life of Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse" (see *ante*), p. 10.

## Sledging and Droschki Driving

proportion between the seat and its intended occupant. We can only recommend the application of horticultural skill in such a manner that the chair may be planted in the ground, made of the wood of some living tree, and trained or kept clipped in the form that may be required to suit the dimensions of Walesian Royalty."

Towards the middle of February the Court removes to Buckingham Palace (the greater part of the journey from Windsor being effected by rail), and the continuance of an unusually severe frost gave the Prince of Wales his first experience of sledging. We learn that the Queen now used for the first time the sledges and droschki presented to her by the Tsar Nicholas. The Queen and the Prince of Wales drove in the first sledge, to which was attached the pair of ponies trained expressly for that purpose, gaily caparisoned in their Russian bell harness. The droschki which followed was driven by one of the royal grooms attired in Russian costume.

In March (1847) the election of Prince Albert as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge took place, although he declined to become a candidate for the post. *Punch* (March 6) proceeds to caricature George Cruikshank's inimitable picture of the election of a Beadle, introducing the words "Vote for Albert, Five small children and a Wife," on one of the supposed electioneering placards. The Public Orator at Cambridge rejoiced in the euphonious name of Crick, and in the following issue of the paper his address to the newly chosen Chancellor is thus travestied :

"From factious sacrilegious claws  
Keep Church and Bishopric ;  
Support our academic cause ;  
Uphold our rights ; defend our laws  
[Ejaculated Crick].

## The Boyhood of a Great King

The speech was done, he made a pause  
For Albert and for Vic ;  
Three most vociferous huzzaws  
Then broke from mighty Whewell's jaws,  
Who, as a proof of his applause,  
Straight to the buttery goes and draws  
A pint of ale for Crick."

In the course of April the Duchess of Kent writes one of her touching little letters to the Princess Royal :

"MY BELOVED VICTORIA,—I send here a little locket for dear Alice. I put my hair in ; the ugly string I made myself. I will give her a chain for it or at least another snap. Be so good as to return it to me to-morrow.

"Ever your very affectionate

"G-MOTHER.

"*Sunday, April 25, 1847.*"

This has evidently to do with the fourth birthday of the Princess Alice, in commemoration of which a juvenile party took place at Buckingham Palace. On the previous afternoon the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the tiny Princess, paid a visit to Gloucester House, to the Duchess of Gloucester, whose birthday it was. Winterhalter's pictures, painted for the Queen, were now on view in the Queen Anne room, St. James' Palace, where they attracted large crowds of visitors, admitted by ticket. Opposite the large family group in which all the five children of the Queen and Prince Albert are portrayed, was a small picture of the Prince of Wales, attired in a sailor's dress—blue jacket, duck trousers and flat black straw hat, the orthodox costume in the Royal Navy. Everybody who was anybody seems to have paid a visit to the exhibition, and the engraving of the

## Artistic Jealousies

pictures was entrusted to Alderman Moon, a future Lord Mayor of London—an arrangement which, if the utterance of *Punch* may be trusted, occasioned considerable jealousy. The Queen and the Prince Consort paid about this time a brief visit to Stratford-on-Avon, and now the Prince of Wales saw Shakespeare's abode for the first time. *Punch* gives a full account of the proceedings, informing its readers that "when the royal carriage came to the beginning of the street, the Queen ordered it to stop. Then Prince Albert lifted her out; and the Queen and Prince Albert taking their children by the hand, walked—just like any pilgrims—down the street to the immortal homestead." Later on we are gravely told that "The Queen has ordered a foreign painter, Winterhalter by name [Winterhalter and Moon are apparently equally objects of jealousy] to paint the scene [at Shakespeare's House] in a way that will bring in the Prince of Wales in the Queen's lap, signing his name\* in Shakespeare's birth-room, Prince Albert and the two little girls looking on." Winterhalter's large family picture is reproduced in the *Illustrated London News*, with two verses, one addressed to the Prince of Wales, and the other to the Princess Alice. The former runs as follows :

"Still rings the People's glad acclaim.  
What calls their fervent blessing down?  
Youthful heir of spotless fame  
Heir to Old England's love and crown,

\* Mr. Richard Savage, the courteous Secretary and Librarian of Shakespeare's birthplace, informs me that the property was not acquired by the nation till September 16, 1847, and the visitors' books up to that date have gone to America. None of the royal signatures appear in the Church Album, nor in that of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, begun in October 1847.

# The Boyhood of a Great King

Prince of Wales, that glorious name,  
Cressy and Agincourt well knew ;  
When sank the oriflamme in shame  
Before St. George's banner true."

The verse dedicated to the Princess Alice was the following :

"Loudly the Welkin peals again.  
What ? View ye not yon blooming child,  
Sweet as the lily without stain  
Or rose-bud in the desert wild—  
The Princess Alice ? Royal Flower !  
May parental virtues beam  
Bright in thy soul as in a bower,  
By Seraphs built on Love's fair stream."

It is only now that the Prince of Wales begins to visit public places in London. On the return of the Court from a brief sojourn at Osborne, he, as well as the Princess Royal, accompanied the Queen and Prince Albert to the exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society. In the following month they were both present in the Queen's carriage at a military review, when the youthful Heir Apparent appears to have discarded his habitual sailor's costume for a singularly unbecoming one including the peaked cap and broad collar then in vogue.

Neither of the royal children went to Cambridge in July, where, to the intense delight of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert was installed as Chancellor of the University with much "pomp and circumstance." Wordsworth's ode, set to music by Mr. T. A. Walmisley, the University Professor, was performed and portions of it were greatly admired. One portion, referring to Luther's celebrated hymn bearing his name, was very cleverly introduced, and Mr. Phillips was loudly applauded in the bass solo beginning : "Albert, in thy race we cherish."

## In the Attire of an "A.-B"

On the evening of August 11 began the now customary autumn trip to Scotland, the Royal squadron consisting of the two yachts, with an escort of four ships of war. On Thursday (August 12) it was reported (presumably by telegraph) from Torbay that "the Queen had remained on deck some time after the yacht had anchored, closely attended by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in the costume of an A.-B.\* Her Majesty, it was said, looked remarkably well and answered the cheers of her subjects, who crowded in boats round the vessels, by gracious smiles and bows."

On Friday, August 13, the Royal yacht anchored off Scilly. On landing at St. Mary's, the Queen and Prince Albert were received by Mr. Augustus Smith, who then held the Island from the Duchy of Cornwall. No English Sovereign had ever set foot in Scilly since the remote days of King Athelstan, and the only other Prince of Wales who had ever been there was Charles II., who had taken refuge there during the civil wars after leaving Pendennis Castle. In her Journal† the Queen notes the prevalence of sea-sickness, which somewhat

\* *Punch*, always proud of Leech's immortal Jack Tar and grog cartoon, now provides the following note: "At the celebration of a birthday of one of the Royal Family, the two little Princes were dressed in the costume of true British sailors, after a well-known design in a former number of *Punch*. We perfectly approve of Her Majesty's desire to keep up in her own family the naval glories of England, by making hearts of oak out of those interesting little acorns already to be found in the royal abode. We have heard, however, that other classes object to the preference given to the navy by Her Majesty's choice; and the poor Protectionists are crying out for the adoption of their costume," and so forth.

† "Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands from 1848 to 1861, with some Account of Earlier Visits to Scotland, and Tours in England and Ireland, and Yachting Excursions." London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1868.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

marred the pleasure of the short stay at the Scilly Islands. On the following day (Saturday, the 14th) the squadron reached Milford Haven, where the Queen received a very enthusiastic greeting from her Welsh subjects. Loud cheers were given for the Prince of Wales, who sat on deck by his mother's side. The Queen herself writes: "Numbers of women came out in boats with their curious high crowned men's hats, and Bertie was much cheered, for the people seemed greatly pleased to see the Prince of Wales." The scene so simply described in the Queen's diary was afterwards made the subject of a poem.\*

Shortly afterwards (August 15) the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal passed through the Menai Straits, and the Royal children saw for the first time the venerable castle of Carnarvon, in which the first Prince of Wales had been born. Mr. Turner, the Mayor of Carnarvon, came on board to pay his respects to the

\* Two of its verses ran thus :

" But when the Mother brought her Child  
Upon the deck and cried, " Behold  
Your Prince ! the Prince of Wales," a wild  
Exulting shout like thunder roll'd  
Up to Plinlimmon, Penmaenmawr  
Answered in lusty Jubilee,  
Sending the shout to Snowdon hoar,  
Who peal'd it bravely o'er the Sea.

\* \* \* \* \*

" And well may Cambria's heart beat high  
Harry of Monmouth then arose ;  
And Cressy paled at Edward's cry  
When fled the lilies from the rose.  
The blood of Tudor proudly flows  
Commingle in each bounding vein  
Of the young Royal Tar who glows  
With pleasure o'er the subject main."



## The Prince in his Principality

illustrious visitors, and a little later the Corporation of Bangor arrived. Loud calls were made for the Prince of Wales, and Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, evidently at the Queen's suggestion, lifted him on to a side seat in full view of the whole assemblage. This was the signal for an outburst of tremendous cheering. The little Prince, doffing his glazed hat, bowed his acknowledgments. He was dressed in a blue jacket, white trousers and "sou'wester." The Princess Royal was on the other side of the Queen. On Monday, the 16th, the Clyde was reached. The hills surrounding Loch Ryan were ablaze with bonfires. On the following day (17th) a short halt was made at Dumbarton, the *Fairy*, upon which the royal party now embarked, next proceeding towards Rothesay, and on Wednesday, the 18th, the romantic scenery of the Kyles of Bute was enjoyed. It was now that the Queen wrote with unfeigned pleasure :

"The children enjoy everything extremely and bear the novelty and excitement wonderfully. The people cheered the Duke of Rothesay (a title belonging to the eldest son of the Sovereign of Scotland) very much, and also called for a cheer for the Princess of Great Britain."

It was on this day that the Queen paid a visit to the ancient and historic home of the Campbells, where the Duke of Argyll had made preparations for doing honour to Her Majesty on a very lavish scale. A Celtic guard of honour from three to five hundred strong was commanded by the Duke of Argyll in Highland costume as Mac-Callum More and Campbell of Islay. Amongst the many guests who were assembled were the young Marquess

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of Stafford \* and Lord Blantyre.† In ascending the steps of the Castle the Queen recognised the little Marquess of Lorne, a graceful child about three years old, in Highland costume.‡ She immediately stooped down, took him by the hand, lifted him up, and kissed him. A carriage was sent for the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. The Prince of Wales was very plainly but neatly dressed in nursery costume as if the sending for him had not been premeditated. He lifted his cap to the assembly in acknowledgment of their cheers. The Princess Royal wore a pea-green silk polka, a purple or brown dress trimmed with fringe, and straw bonnet.

In his biography of the late Queen Victoria, the present Duke of Argyll§ publishes the following interesting letter of his father written on the day following the royal visit :

“ August 19, 1847.

“ All went off perfectly yesterday. The Queen visited Inverary. The day cleared up gloriously just as the squadron hove in sight. . . . A show of kilts to the number of at least three hundred and fifty. . . . The Queen in very good spirits and good humoured. Campbell of Isla alone brought two hundred men in Highland dress, and these Campbell gentlemen stood with halberds and axes around the table when the Queen was at lunch. . . . The Queen was most kind and civil to everybody,

\* Afterwards third Duke of Sutherland, born 1828, died 1892.

† Charles, 12th and last Baron Blantyre, born 1818, died 1900.

‡ In her Journal the Queen thus describes her future son-in-law and biographer : “ Just two years old, a dear, white, fat little fellow with reddish hair, but very delicate features ; a merry and independent little child.”

§ “ V.R.I.,” by the Marquis of Lorne now Duke of Argyll. By a clerical error the letter bears date 1848, an obvious mistake.

## In Kilt and Tartan

and Isla's little boy Walter,\* when he was presented to her, knelt and kissed her hand. My little Ian † positively refused to kiss the hand of the little Princess Royal, much to the amusement of the Queen."

From Iona and Loch Linnhe, Fort William is reached (August 19-20), and on the 21st the Queen arrives at Ardverkie Lodge,‡ where it is proposed she should stay till September 18. The holiday at Ardverkie seems to have been a thoroughly enjoyable one. The Prince of Wales now dons Highland costume, and the young Cluny Macpherson, also in kilt and tartan, is presented to him. Daily rides on Shetland ponies are indulged in, and much delight is expressed at the Highland games and trials of athletic skill witnessed by the whole of the Royal Family. The twenty-eighth birthday of Prince Albert is kept with the usual rejoicings at the Lodge.§

Early in October the Court is again installed

\* Now Captain Walter Campbell of Islay and Woodhall, Lanarkshire. In 1883 Queen Victoria made him Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park, a post which he still holds. His sisters were Lady Granville, mother of the present peer, and Mrs. Bromley-Davenport.

† The present Duke of Argyll.

‡ Placed at her Majesty's disposal by the Marquis of Abercorn, who rented it from Lord Henry Bentinck. The walls were adorned with drawings by Sir Edwin Landseer, which were afterwards destroyed by fire.

§ A sonnet was addressed to him by a contributor of *The Illustrated London News*, which, after saluting him as "Patron of Arts," and "Freeman's faithful friend," concluded with the lines :

"Happy may every year the Future brings  
Shine round thee, Prince !  
While thou in Blessing bless'd  
Shalt prove the Father of a line of Kings  
Who to Old England shall be *Treu und Fest*."

## The Boyhood of a Great King

at Windsor, and on the 11th of that month, while the Prince of Wales and his sister the Princess Royal were riding in the New Park on their Shetland ponies the animals were frightened by the antics of a Java pony, and ran away before the groom could secure them, bolting across the Park in different directions. The Prince managed to retain his seat; the Princess Royal was thrown, but fortunately sustained no injury. On the previous day the Dowager Queen Adelaide, whose health had been failing of late, had embarked at Portsmouth for Madeira on board the *Howe*, with the intention of paying a short visit to the Queen of Portugal at Lisbon *en route*. Three weeks later a private exhibition of Wombwell's menagerie (which had proved a great attraction at Windsor Fair) took place in the quadrangle of the Castle, where the vans containing the different animals were drawn up and arranged in the centre. At 3 o'clock, the Queen accompanied by the Prince Consort, the Duchess of Kent and the four elder of the royal children, proceeded to the exhibition in which they were much interested. The Queen afterwards suggested that the Eton boys would like to avail themselves of this opportunity of seeing the show, and they came in very great numbers. The Princess Helena now begins for the first time to take rides on her pony, sitting on a sort of pack-saddle. Illustrations appear in the *Illustrated London News* of all the Royal children indulging in equestrian exercise.

At this time it appears that the Prince of Wales became the object of much persecution on the part of the self-advertising present-sender, with whom *Punch* proceeds to deal with well-merited severity. First a facetious version of a

## A Plague of Presents

letter from Sir Denis le Marchant declining one of these offerings is given, and then comes a paragraph in which "522 old ladies" are described as "making pincushions for the Princess Royal." Sir Denis announces that the "Royal servants had received orders to take in no package whatever directed to the Royal children." Upon which *Punch* says: "If the sentries had received orders to shoot the driver and lad of the Parcels' Delivery-cart, we should not for ourselves have expressed the least objection to the proceedings."

At the civic feast of November 9, Lord Mayor Hooper in proposing the health of the Prince of Wales is reported to have said, "the day was dear to them, not only on account of their civic privileges then exercised, but by reason of it being the birthday of the Prince of Wales. He was sure that all entertained towards His Royal Highness every feeling of attachment. He hoped as he grew in stature he would grow in wisdom, and prove a blessing to the country."

The sixth birthday of the Prince of Wales was celebrated in very much the same fashion as in the previous year, the Prince, as well as Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice, being all present at the inspection of the troops and the firing of a *feu de joie*. It was announced that a few days previously Messrs. Roth and Freeman, of Old Bond Street, had been ordered by Royal Command, to make several suits of clothes of new fashion and materials for the Prince of Wales, and a portrait of him is given wearing one of these dresses which seem to have been made from a Turkish design. One of the jackets was bright blue, lined with crimson silk and trimmed with braid. Another was of dark lake with white, and a third

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of maroon with blue. A variety of waistcoats were provided of different colours varying from plain black to white sateen, whilst a fancy Scotch tartan was employed for the trousers. From the specimen which figures in the illustration it is certainly fortunate that such a costume did not, like the naval dress, ever become popular.

It was possibly the laureate of this enterprising Bond Street firm who sang as follows :

“ Ere now, the boy has worn the garb that Sanctifies our Wars ;  
The Blood-dyed red on Nelson’s breast gave the Jacket of our Tars !  
And had poor Dibdin lived—(the pride of all our Sailor bards)  
When young “ Wales ” walk’d the quarter-deck, and Britain mann’d  
the yards

He must have felt that victory will still swell full our sails,  
While proud Victoria lives and Prince of all, Sailor Prince of Wales.

\* \* \* \* \*

Old London claims him *citizen*—for evermore her own,—  
For he was born when London’s King was ushered to his Throne !  
For *six* brief years—with civic feast—his festival they mix,  
*And now the finest BIRTHDAY comes—and brightest of the six.*  
Oh ! Never such a canopy of blue NOVEMBER wore,  
Never so shone, o’er all the land—November’s sun before.  
Then if an omen Heaven born be one that never fails  
SUN OF BLUE SKY SHALL BLESS THE LIFE OF OUR DEAR PRINCE  
OF WALES.

The Court goes to Osborne for three weeks, and a rumour is current that another Church dignitary viz., Dr. Philpott, Master of Catherine Hall, who as Vice-Chancellor performed the honours during Prince Albert’s installation at Cambridge, was about to be appointed tutor of the Prince of Wales. <sup>1871</sup>

The festive season was the signal for the usual joyous gathering. On Christmas night the Royal table was laden, we are assured, “ with a magnificent display of viands *recherché* and substantial, set out with infinite taste and splendour.” At the conclusion of the banquet the whole of the guests retired



QUEEN VICTORIA, PRINCE ALBERT, AND THE PRINCE  
OF WALES AT WINDSOR, ABOUT 1847

*From a contemporary Barter print*





## Christmas Festivities

to the Green Drawing-room. In this apartment were five trees between six and eight feet high, placed in ornamental stands, the trees being imitation firs, and the leaves frosted to resemble snow. Suspended from the branches were hundreds of packets for Christmas presents. Each tree was brilliantly illuminated with upwards of eighty coloured lights. Mr. McKay, her Majesty's piper,\* was in attendance and marched round the room playing Scotch airs. The Queen's private band afterwards gave a concert in the Red Drawing-room.

At the close of 1847 one of the many early biographers of the Prince of Wales† describes him as "a light, active, fair-haired boy, with vivacity and intelligence beaming out of his bright blue eyes; health mantling on his cheek, and a childish dignity, very pretty to witness, characterising all his movements in public." The year on which he was about to enter lives in the annals of Europe as that of many revolutions. In England the much-talked of Chartist demonstration ended in smoke, but long before it took place, Louis Philippe had lost his throne, paving the way for the election and proclamation, nine months later, of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte as President of the second French Republic.‡ In March an insurrection broke out in Berlin, while Spain remained in what may be described as a chronic state of unrest. The month of January was spent by the Court at Windsor. The news of the health of the Queen Dowager which came from Madeira was encouraging, and none of her pensioners and poor dependents at Bushy and elsewhere were forgotten either at

\* See *post*, p. 270.

† "Memoirs of the Prince of Wales." Marlborough & Co. n.d.

‡ See *post*, p. 288.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Christmas or the New Year. On January 21 she penned the following kind and sympathetic letter to her great-niece, the seven-year-old Princess Royal :

“Funchal, *January 21, 1848.*

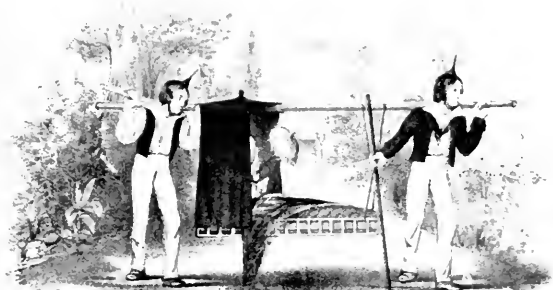
“MY DEAREST GRAND-NIECE,—I have to thank you for two very nicely written letters, which have given me much pleasure. I am coming here in person to give you a kiss ; if you will draw the curtain of this Palanquin you will find me behind them ; will you try ? I wish you could, and that I could have the happiness of seeing you and your brothers and sisters again. I have so much to tell you, to amuse you, and so much to show. All this I hope to do on my return to England. In the meantime I must tell you that I have here two very pretty and tame parrots, and a *volière* full of pretty canary birds. They are all on the veranda outside of our windows. I was much pleased to hear that you all liked the little carriage which I sent you at Christmas. I hope to see you some day in it. Give my love to your dear brothers and sisters, also to kind Lady Lyttelton. God bless and protect you, dearest child, prays

“Your most affectionate

“GRAND-AUNT ADELAIDE.”

In February the Queen and her children are once more at Buckingham Palace, and on the 10th of that month (the eighth anniversary of Her Majesty's marriage) an abridged version of Mendelssohn's “Oedipus” was performed at Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal had both been present at the rehearsals which the Queen and Prince Albert superintended in person.

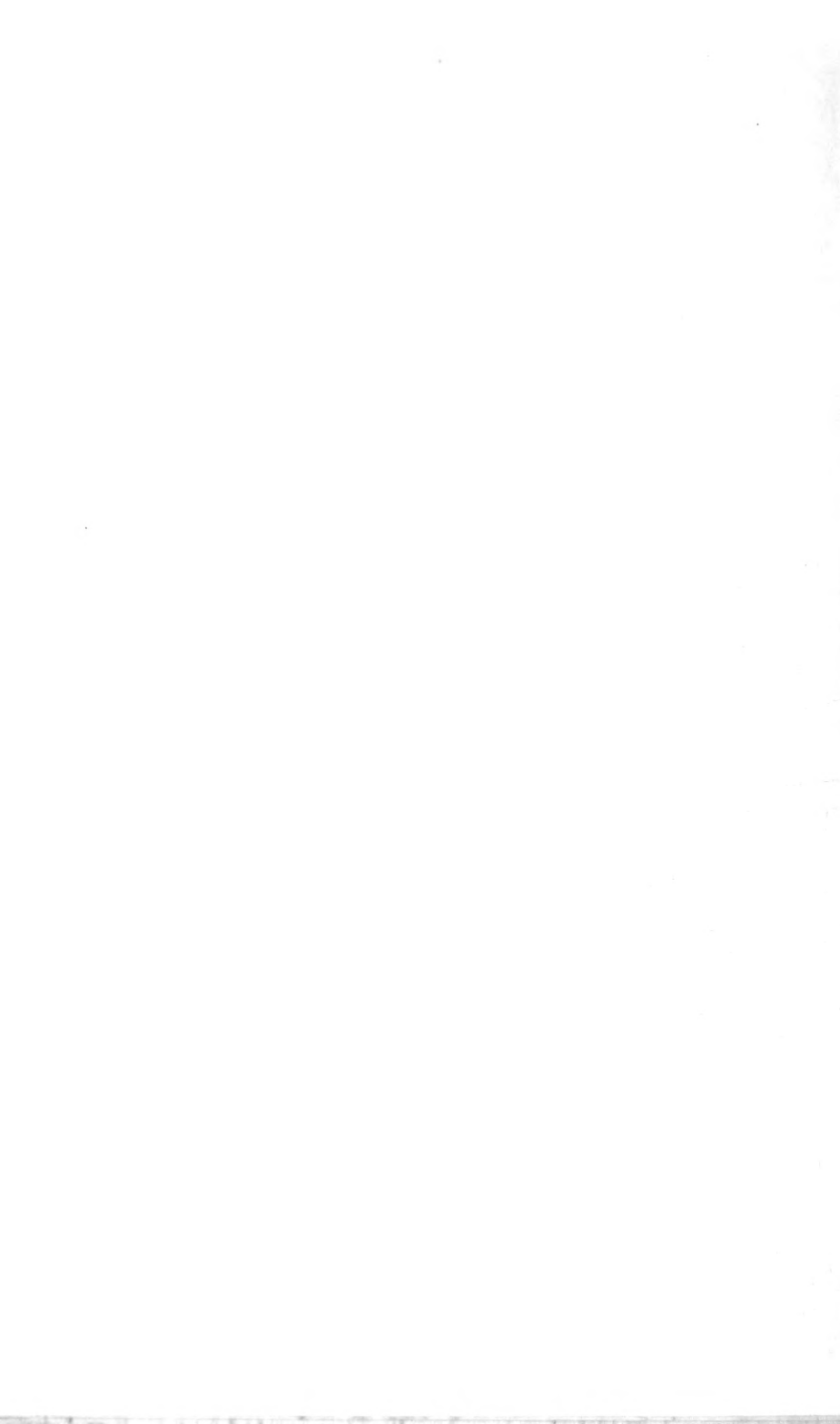
The news from the Continent grows more and



Printed by ...

My dearest Grand Niece  
 I have to thank you for two very  
 nicely written letters, which have  
 given me much pleasure. I am  
 coming here in person to give  
 you a kiss, & you will direct  
 the curtains of this balcony

FACSIMILE OF FIRST PAGE OF LETTER FROM QUEEN  
 ADELAIDE, DATED FUNCHAL, JANUARY 21, 1848, TO  
 HER GRAND-NIECE THE PRINCESS ROYAL.



## Birth of Princess Louise

more gloomy, and Prince Albert (February 27) writes almost in despair to Baron Stockmar :

“The posture of affairs is bad. European war is at our doors. France is ablaze in every quarter ; Louis Philippe is wandering about in disguise, so is the Queen. . . . Guizot is a prisoner, the republic declared, the army ordered to the frontier, the incorporation of the Rhenish provinces proclaimed. Here they refuse to pay the income tax, and attack the Ministry. Our poor good grandmamma (the Duchess Dowager of Gotha) is taken from the world.”

On Saturday, March 18, the Princess Louise (now the Duchess of Argyll, and the wife of the bonny child of whom the Queen had written seven months before—August 11, 1847 : “Outside stood the Marquis of Lorne just two years old, a dear, white, fat, fair little fellow with reddish hair, but very delicate features, like both his father and mother ; he is such a merry, independent little child. He had a black velvet dress and jacket with a ‘sporrán’ scarf and Highland bonnet”) was born at Buckingham Palace. During the following weeks the Prince of Wales and his sister visit some of the sights of London, the picture-galleries and one or two of the theatres. The question of saving life at sea comes to the fore, and the model of a life-boat is, by way of object-lesson, presented to the Prince of Wales.\* She was built of bird’s-eye maple, and fitted up with an elegantly carved chair, the seat covered with crimson velvet, the back supported with the Prince of Wales’s feathers carved in maple, and ornamented with gold ; the rowing mat was of the same material as the chair, and there was a footstool of Utrecht

\* “Albert Edward Prince of Wales.” Ward, Lock and Co. 1859.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

velvet. The oars were of mahogany and very light ; the boat was a single rowing skiff, and lined throughout with Captain Light's new patent material, which gives all the buoyancy of a lifeboat. The beautiful specimens of swimming belts and a small life-buoy were also presented to the Prince of Wales.

Rumour is again busy with the appointment of a tutor to the Heir Apparent, and on March 27 a special correspondent at Oxford sends to London an announcement that "the learned Headmaster of Westminster School, the Rev. H. G. Liddell, formerly student of Christ Church, has been appointed tutor to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." The much-coveted post, however, was not destined to fall to the lot of this illustrious scholar and divine. In May the Queen and Prince Albert are frequently at the Opera, where the appearance of Madame Pauline Viardot Garcia at the Opera excited much interest. She was then described as "sister of the lamented Mme. Malibran and Manuel Garcia, now Professor of Singing at the Conservatoire of Paris, who has written one of the best standard works on 'The Art of Singing,' and was the master of Jenny Lind." Another "star" of the same year was Mme. Tadolini.

In July the Court is at Buckingham Palace, and the Queen and Prince Consort go down to Bushey to see the Queen Dowager, whose health has been improved by her sojourn in Madeira. In August the choice of a tutor for their son occupies the attention of the Queen and Prince Albert. The

\* Madame Viardot is still alive and well in Paris, while her brother Manuel, who celebrated his 101st birthday, on March 17, 1906, forms a connecting link between the days before Trafalgar and the fifth year of the reign of King Edward VII.

## Mr. Birch becomes Tutor

name of Mr. Henry Birch, one of the Assistant Masters at Eton, was mentioned to them as in every way fitted for this position of singular importance and respectability. An interview is arranged for, and on August 6 the Prince Consort writes thus to Lord Morpeth: "The impression he has left upon me after a preliminary interview is a very favourable one, and I can imagine that children will easily attach themselves to him."

*The Times* on August 21 (1848) thus gives currency to the whisper about Mr. Birch's appointment:

"It is rumoured in well-informed quarters that the choice of a tutor during the early period of the Prince of Wales's education has fallen upon one of the Assistant Masters of Eton College, from whose success in engaging the attachment of the pupils as well as the confidence of their parents, the best results may be anticipated in the more prominent sphere to which it is proposed to transfer him."

After much deliberation Mr. Birch was finally chosen. He had been educated at Eton, where he became captain of the school. He had taken high honours at Cambridge and had then gone back to Eton as an assistant-master. The Prince Consort at once wrote to the Duchess of Coburg on the subject and said:

"Bertie will be given over in a few weeks into the hands of a tutor, whom we have found in a Mr Birch, a young good-looking amiable man. . . It is an important step and God's blessing be upon it, for upon the good education of Princes, and especially of those who are destined to govern, the welfare of the world in these days greatly depends."

## The Boyhood of a Great King

It was not, however, until the spring of the following year (1849), when the Prince of Wales had passed his seventh birthday, that the reins of office were to pass from the capable hands of Miss Hildyard to those, not less capable, of Mr. Henry Birch.\* The letter to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg, just quoted, bears the date of April 10, 1849. Late in July (1848) the Prince of Wales and his sister accompany the Queen and Prince Albert on a visit to the Botanic Gardens at Kew, and early in August they were again in London, but the three younger royal princesses and the Dowager Lady Lyttelton remained at Osborne, together with her Serene Highness Princess Hohenlohe Langenburg and her three daughters.

A fortnight later the Royal Squadron was once more conveying the Queen and her children to Scotland, Aberdeen being on this occasion the first place to be visited. No sooner had the *Victoria and Albert* anchored than cheers were given for the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, who were both with their royal parents on deck. The Prince of Wales once more wore his sailor dress.† On the Queen seeing the interest excited by the appearance of the royal children she led them forward to a position in which they could be seen by all. "All the people in Aberdeen," writes Queen Victoria in her Journal, "crowded to the harbour and were soon delighted by seeing the

\* See *post*, p. 227.

† *Punch* was evidently determined not to lose the credit due for the never-to-be-forgotten cartoon. We now have [vol. iv. p. 130]:

"By our own halfpenny-a-liner.

"The youthful Prince of Wales was dressed after your celebrated picture of him, where he is represented handing a glass of grog to a tar to drink his mamma's health."

The slight confusion of cause and effect is quite pardonable.



## First Visit to Balmoral

Queen and her little children walk ashore with the Prince. . . .”

Friday, September 8, 1848, will be very memorable in the history of Scotland as the date of Queen Victoria's first sojourn at Balmoral. Gravely and with due sense of its own importance does the *Aberdeen Herald* discuss the outlook: “It being one of the objects of Her Majesty in taking a Highland residence to afford Prince Albert an opportunity of showing his dexterity in the sporting line, Balmoral was well chosen. Having had an opportunity of traversing H.R.H.'s beat we should say that as regard grouse the prospect is not very favourable, and we ground our opinion on the number of barren birds we encountered. If the ptarmigan are not wild, good sport might be expected among the craigs on the summit of Lochnagar, but if the weather breaks he will have some difficulty and delay in following from cliff to cliff. The deer will, no doubt, be driven, so sport in that way may be expected; but there is no doubt that His Royal Highness will have access to better beats such as Invercauld and Mar forests. One of the best grouse shootings, viz., the Moss of Monaltrie, is not far distant. The only dog about the place is the late Sir Robert Gordon's deer hound ‘Danger.’ The Queen appeared to be in excellent spirits on her reaching Balmoral. In the course of the afternoon Her Majesty not only inspected the Castle but walked through the grounds and ascended the Craig of Balmoral, a hill immediately over the castle—from whence she obtained a fine view all the way to the Pass of Ballater. A winding walk has lately been made to a point on the northern side of the hill, from which the prospect is most comprehensive and imposing. Below lies a deep wooded

## The Boyhood of a Great King

valley within an amphitheatre of hills ; and from thence the eye wanders over a scene of great magnificence and in parts of great beauty. When night set in, a pile of fuel, which the Invercauld tenantry had erected on Craig Linne, was kindled, and showed a bright glare down on the Castle, while the grotesque figures of about 100 men dancing around the fire added to the wildness of the nocturnal welcome. At Crathie there was a display of fireworks given by one of the proprietors of the Lochnagar Distillery, Mr. Begg, of Aberdeen, who also kindly invited the young folks of the district to a ball. In the course of the evening the health of Her Majesty was toasted as well as that of Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the other members of the royal family."

And thus wrote Queen Victoria of her first impressions of the Highland home she loved with all her heart for more than half a century, even when sorrow and long years had dimmed the memory of its earliest and brightest associations :

"It was the first experience of many happy days and many happy years spent among the beautiful mountains of Aberdeen, in the keen and healthy air that blew from the peaks of Lochnagar, over the fine forest of Ballochbuie and Mar. The fine and peculiar colouring of the landscape was especially pleasing. The more level ground near the impetuous river was still clothed, despite the autumn, in green. Then came, near the edge of the woods, the bright russet of the fern, lining the dark verdure of the Scotch firs, which rose, ridge above ridge, until they became scanty and widespread, while the bloom of the heather was still in full flower, to be succeeded on the higher

## Queen Victoria on her New Home

ranges by the cold escarpments of the gray, granite rock.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Of the then existing mansion, the Queen says : “ It is a pretty little castle in the old Scottish style. There is a picturesque tower and garden in front, with a high wooded hill. There is a nice little hall with a billiard-room ; next to it is our dining-room. Upstairs, immediately to the right, is our sitting-room, a fine, large room ; then our bedroom, opening into it a little dressing-room which is Albert’s. Opposite, down a few steps, are the children’s and Miss Hildyard’s three rooms. The ladies lived below and the gentlemen upstairs. After lunch we walked out and went to the top of the wooded hill opposite our windows, where there is a cairn, and up which there is a pretty winding path. The view from here is charming. To the left the beautiful hills surrounding Loch-nagar ; to the right the glen along which the Dee winds, and the wooded hills which reminded me very much of the Thüringerwald. It was so calm, and so solitary. It did one good as one gazed around ; the pure mountain air was most refreshing. All seemed to breathe freedom and peace, and to make one forget the world and its sad turmoils. The scenery is wild and yet not desolate, and everything looks much more prosperous and cultivated than at Laggan. Then the soil is delightfully dry. We walked beside the beautiful, rapid Dee, which is close behind the house. The view of the hills towards Invercauld is exceedingly fine. When I came in at half-past six, Albert went out to try his luck with some stags.”

Her Majesty next proceeds to describe the first deer-drive at Balmoral ; “ Several gillies were with

## The Boyhood of a Great King

us. They took us up a beautiful path winding through trees and heather in the Ballochbuie, but when we had gone about a mile they discovered deer. A 'council of war' was held in a whisper, and we turned back and went the whole way down again and rode along to the keeper's lodge, where we turned up the glen immediately below Craig Daigh, through a beautiful part of the wood, and went along the track till we came to the foot of the craig, where we all dismounted. We scrambled up an almost perpendicular place to where there was a little box made of hurdles and interwoven with branches of fir and heather about five feet in height. There we seated ourselves with Bertie [Prince of Wales], Macdonald lying in the heather near us watching and quite concealed. Some had gone round to beat, and others, again, were at a little distance. We sat quite still and sketched a little, I doing the landscape and some trees, Albert drawing Macdonald as he lay there. This lasted for nearly an hour, when Albert fancied he heard a distant sound, and in a few minutes Macdonald whispered that he saw a stag, and that Albert should wait and take a steady aim. We then heard them coming past."

After the "drive" was over, both the Queen and Prince Albert mounted their ponies, "Bertie riding Grant's pony on the deer saddle, and being led by a gillie, Grant walking by his side."

*Punch* evidently brooks of no rival as self-appointed Court Newsman. The editor has no sympathy for the cohort of Jenkinases who record the doings of the Queen and her children at Balmoral, and produces a capital cartoon entitled "A Gross Outrage: or Paul Pry in the Highlands," in which a kilted and corpulent Liston is portrayed in the act of making

## Prince Albert as a Highland Laird

a sketch through the keyhole. The success of the visit, however, satisfies everybody, and when Prince Albert purchases for £14,900 the Birkhall estate adjoining Balmoral, the *Aberdeen Herald*, with true Scotch sagacity, says, "From this circumstance it is but reasonable to conclude that Balmoral will henceforth take its place in the same category with Osborne and the other royal residences where Her Majesty regularly spends a portion of each year. When His Royal Highness arrives in Deeside next year he must be welcomed in his new character of a Highland laird."

On the return journey south a brief halt is made at Newcastle,\* where the Mayor read an address, and a member of the Corporation presented the Prince of Wales with "a transparent ivory-handled paper-folder, with a single penknife, the shoulder being formed of a crown inlaid with diamonds and other precious stones. On the handle were the Royal Arms with the rose, shamrock and thistle embossed in gold, and engraved on each side were different views of Windsor."

On the re-assembling of the Law Courts the case of the piracy of the royal etchings is much discussed. The victims† of the misdoings of Messrs. Judge and Strange have no more stalwart champion than *Punch*. After enumerating no less than sixty-one of the stolen pictures, the writer observes with righteous indignation :

\* In 1848 the Mayor of Newcastle was Mr. Stephen Lowrie. The Prince of Wales again visited Newcastle with the Queen and Prince Albert both in 1849 and 1850, when a more prolonged sojourn was made there. In 1849 Captain James Dent Weatherley was Mayor, and in the following year Mr. Joseph Crawhall. On the latter occasion Queen Victoria inaugurated the new Central Railway Station.

† *Punch*, vol. xv. 212. See *ante*, p. 81, and *post*, p. 238.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“Let us confess that the shabby knave who stole the royal property, making unlawful use of the Queen’s plate, has, without intention, done good service. *Punch* recollects no thief since the time of Mercury, who has done so pleasant a grace by robbery. . . . The pillory unfortunately is gone. We recognise, however, another good in the larceny. Prince Albert has been in Chancery. The Queen and the Prince *now* personally feel what it is to be robbed, pillaged and pirated. Will they then do their best to push an International Law of copyright with our kind friends in America, who live by robbing ‘us youth’ and against whose wickedness there is not even the forlorn hope of the Vice-Chancellor?”

The celebration of the seventh birthday of the Heir Apparent took place as usual at Windsor on November 9, Queen Adelaide (the constant correspondent of the Queen’s elder children) being amongst the guests. At the inauguration of Lord Mayor Sir James Duke, on the same evening at the Guildhall, one of the chief features of the decorations was the plume and motto of the Prince of Wales, wrought in spun glass and nine feet in height. In the Christmas supplement of the *Illustrated London News* is given a full-page picture of a Christmas tree at Osborne, in which portraits of the Prince Consort, the Queen, as well as those of their five elder children, and the Duchess of Kent are introduced. The “Windsor Theatricals,” which were now to enter so largely into the upbringing and home association of the Prince of Wales during the next few years, were inaugurated on the evening of December 28, 1848. They will be dealt with at length in a separate chapter.

On New Year’s Day, 1849, the Prince of Wales

## New Year's Gifts at Windsor

was once more present at the distribution of the royal gifts to the poor, which took place, on this occasion, in the new riding-school at Windsor. Before the Court removed to London the miniature-portrait of the Queen and Prince of Wales, by Thorburn, was engraved by Heath and published. Beneath it was a short poem, containing the following verse :

“ And while the gentle Mother claims a meed  
Of loving homage from her subject lands,—  
Homage not forced but free in word and deed,—  
A bud of promise grows beneath her hands.  
Upon his youthful head what hopes arise  
From all the myriads of our towns and dales,  
The artless cynosure of English eyes,  
Treasure of English hearts, the Prince of Wales.”

It was in the early days of February, when the Prince of Wales was seven years and two months old, that all the doubts and controversies about the next phase of his upbringing were put an end to by the announcement that “ Mr. Birch, Assistant Master at Eton, has now entered upon his responsible duties as tutor of the Heir Apparent. Mr. Birch will reside with the Royal Establishment, and will travel with his royal and illustrious pupil from place to place as Her Majesty may feel disposed to change her residence. The Rev. R. Joynes has succeeded Mr. Birch at Eton.”

As a matter of fact, Mr. Birch did not commence work for some weeks later. In the letter of Prince Albert to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg already referred to,\* the “ giving over ” of the Prince of Wales to the care of the “ young, good-looking and

\* The letter is dated April 10, 1849 (see *ante*, p. 219). Amongst other honours Mr. Birch had carried off the Newcastle Scholarship. After resigning his post in 1851, Mr. Birch became Rector of Prestwich, Manchester (see *post*, p. 278).

## The Boyhood of a Great King

amiable Mr. Birch," is spoken of as still some weeks off. In May the Queen and the Court are again at Buckingham Palace, and the Prince of Wales accompanies his parents and two elder sisters to the official visit to the Royal Academy, where the *Coming of Age in the Olden Time* of the still living Mr. W. P. Frith, R.A., was one of the most attractive features of the exhibition. At the end of June the Queen, Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred and the Princess Royal attended the Scottish *fête* held in Holland Park. The greater part of July was spent at Osborne, which as each succeeding season went by obtained a stronger hold on the affections of both the Queen and Prince. Earlier in the year Prince Albert had written to Coburg : " In our island home we are wholly given up to the enjoyment of the warm summer weather. The children catch butterflies, Victoria sits under the trees, and I drink the Kissingen Water Ragotzky. To-day Mama-Aunt (the Duchess of Kent) and Charles (Prince Leiningen) are to stay a fortnight with us, then we go to town to compress the pleasures of the season into four weeks. God be merciful to us miserable sinners."

The Baroness Bunsen has given us a charming pen-picture of the everyday life of the Queen and her family in the Isle of Wight at the end of the eventful forties :

" It is at Osborne House that the Queen more especially feels herself at home ; she there enjoys her domestic life and family happiness to her heart's content. She walks out in the beautiful garden and pleasure-grounds with the Prince and her children, in prospect of the sea and of the grand men-of-war of Great Britain, in the midst of a quiet



## Home Life at Osborne

rural population. In the afternoon we all drove to St. Clair, the country residence of Lady Catherine Harcourt, near Ryde, where a Bazaar was prepared for the benefit of the hospital. The Queen made purchases to a considerable amount and distributed a part among the accompanying party. In the royal *char-à-banc* I sat near the Prince of Wales and behind the two eldest Princesses : they all spoke German like their native tongue even to one another. The Heir Apparent has gained in appearance of strength and has a pleasing countenance ; he will be eight years old in November. I called his attention to the eagerness with which all the inhabitants crowded round to behold the Queen, because she was so good and therefore beloved."

Writing later of Osborne, the Baroness Bunsen says :

"A large portion of the pleasure-grounds was appropriated to the young Princes and Princesses, who each had a flower and vegetable garden, greenhouse, hothouse, and forcing-frames, tool-houses, and even a carpenter's shop. Here the Royal children used to pass much of their time. Each was supplied with a set of tools marked with the name of their owner, and here they worked with the enthusiasm of an amateur and the zeal of an Anglo-Saxon. There was no branch of gardening in which the Royal children were not *au fait*.

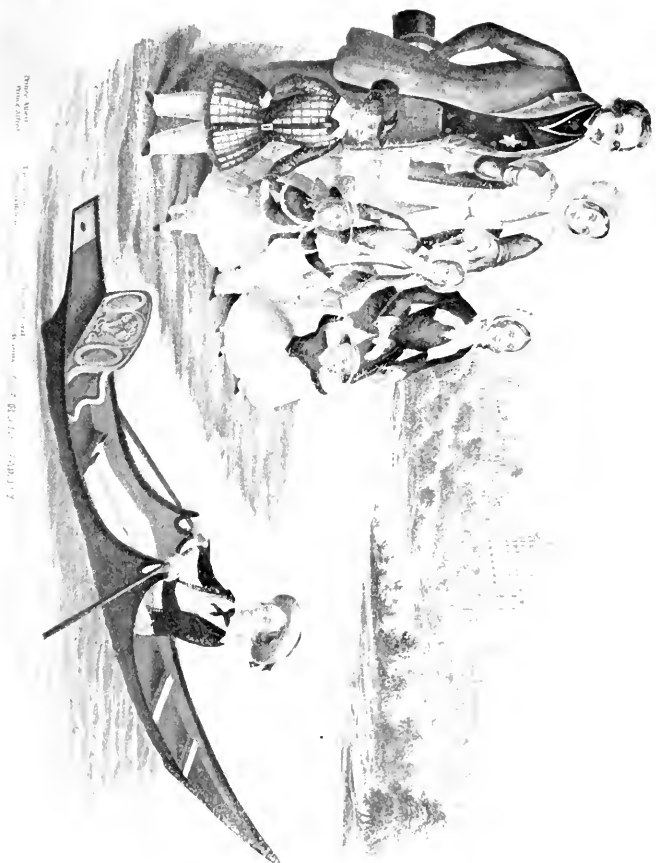
"Moreover, on this juvenile property was a building (the Swiss Cottage), the ground floor of which was fitted up as a kitchen with pantry closets, dairy larder, all complete in their arrangements ; and here might have been seen the young Princesses arrayed *à la cuisinière*, floured to the elbows, deep in the mysteries of pastry-making, like rosy English

## The Boyhood of a Great King

girls, cooking the vegetables from their own gardens, preserving, pickling, baking, sometimes to partake among themselves, or to distribute among the poor of the neighbourhood the result of their handiwork. The Queen had determined that nothing domestic should remain unlearned by her children; nor were the young people ever happier than during their sojourn at Osborne.

“There was also a museum of natural history furnished with curiosities collected by the Royal party in their rambles and researches—geological and botanical specimens, stuffed birds and animals, articles of their own construction, and whatever is curious or interesting classified and arranged by themselves.”

In 1849 the Swiss Cottage at Osborne had not attained the importance it enjoyed during the early “fifties,” but Baroness Bunsen’s narrative throws an important light on one of the most novel and useful sources of good in the general scheme devised by the Queen and Prince Albert for the upbringing of their children. The long-talked-of visit to Ireland was to come off at last, and before the end of July, *Punch* published a cartoon described as “A Morning Call,” in which the Queen and Prince of Wales (it need hardly be said in sailor attire) are portrayed as paying a visit to a comely Irish peasant woman, representing Hibernia. The public were at the same time assured that “Her Majesty’s visit will be homely and unpretending. On landing at Cork she will make the round of the city in a car, occupying one side of it with Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales, the other being balanced by Maids of Honour. All Her Majesty’s dress will be of Irish manufacture; Irish poplin;



Prince Albert  
Queen Victoria

Prince Edward  
Prince George

Prince Alfred  
Prince Arthur

Prince William  
Prince Harry

# THE ROYAL FAMILY AT WINDSOR

*From a popular print of the period, etc., 1849*



## A Visit to Ireland

bonnet of Irish straw with blossoms of the national fruit. . . . Little Prince Alfred will be created Duke of Liffey."

*The Times* dealt at considerable length with the Queen's visit to Ireland, which occupied the whole of the first part of August, 1849.

The squadron in which the Royal party left Cowes on August 1 consisted of the *Victoria and Albert*, the first yacht of that name, commanded by Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence; the *Stromboli*, tender, commanded by Lord A. Beauclerk; the *Sphinx*, corvette, Commander Howett; the *Black Eagle*, yacht, commanded by Master Commander Cooke; and the *Vivid*, packet, commanded by Master Commander Luke Smithett. Some other vessels had been sent on to the Cove of Cork to prepare for the Royal arrival. On Wednesday night the squadron passed the Land's End, and arrived at the Cove of Cork between eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening. The ships present were the *Hogue* (80), *Ganges* (80), *Arrogant* (46), and several smaller vessels. Of the latter the *Lucifer*, *Trident*, *Shearwater*, and *Gossamer* went out to welcome the Royal Flotilla and pilot it into port, the whole of the squadron being illuminated with blue lights and rockets.

Next morning (Friday, August 3), after Admiral Manly Dixon, commanding at the port, with other naval and military officials, had been on board the *Victoria and Albert* to pay their respects to the Queen, the Royal party were transferred to the *Fairy*, yacht, under a salute from the ships, which also manned yards. The *Fairy*, after steaming round the harbour to give the Royal passengers an opportunity to inspect the scenery, proceeded to the Columbine Quay, where addresses were pre-

## The Boyhood of a Great King

sented, and Her Majesty graciously authorised the alteration of the name of the port from Cove to Queenstown. Then the *Fairy*, attended by the *Vivid* and *Banshee*, proceeded up the river to Cork, where further festivities took place. The Royal party returned the same evening and went on board the *Victoria and Albert* in readiness to sail on the following morning. The special correspondent of *The Times*, in describing the scene in Queenstown Harbour prior to the departure of the yacht, says :

“The Royal party, with that considerate condescension which has marked their conduct throughout, and with an evident desire to gratify an excusable and laudable curiosity, came on deck repeatedly, and leant over the side of the yacht so that the sightseers should be sent away perfectly satisfied. The Queen was on deck at nine o'clock, dressed in a morning wrapper, and plain straw bonnet with green veil. Prince Albert had on a military cap with gold bands, and a shooting-jacket with light trousers. The Prince of Wales was dressed in a sailor's hat and jacket ; and, if one could judge by the manner in which he bounded along the deck, seemed in the best of health and spirits. The Royal Princesses were under the care of the governess, and the three Royal children were constantly to be seen gathering round the Queen, and evidently posing Her Majesty by their questions.”

The Queen somehow or other found time to make several lengthy entries in her Journal during the Irish tour. She was frankly enchanted with Cork, where an old woman called out that one of the Royal children ought to be called Patrick. “I cannot describe our route,” writes Queen Victoria,

## A Hearty Welcome

“but it will suffice to say that it took two hours, that we drove through the principal streets—twice through some of them—that they were densely crowded, decorated with flowers and triumphal arches, that the heat and dust were great, that we passed by the new college which is building—one of the four which are ordered by Act of Parliament—that our reception was most enthusiastic, and that everything went off to perfection, and was very well arranged. Cork is not at all like an English town, and looks rather foreign. The crowd is noisy, excitable, but a very good-humoured one, running and pushing about, and laughing, talking, and shrieking. The beauty of the women is very remarkable, and struck us much; such beautiful dark eyes and hair, and such fine teeth. Almost every third woman was pretty; some remarkably so. They wear no bonnets, and generally long blue cloaks. The men are very poorly, often raggedly, dressed, and many wear blue coats and short breeches with blue stockings.”

A little later she writes: “Albert decided on going to Waterford, ten miles up the river, in the *Fairy* with the boys, and as I felt giddy and tired, I preferred remaining quietly on board sketching.”

Mr. Birch was in attendance as well as Miss Hildyard. On landing at Kingstown Prince Albert held the hand of the Prince of Wales, while the Queen led the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and Prince Alfred. The motto which met the eye in all directions was “*Cead mille failthe.*” On a banner was emblazoned an additional verse to the National Anthem:

“Oh! May thy cheerful smile  
Long bless our native Isle.  
Health to our Queen.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Firm round thy throne we'll stand,  
True to thy just command,  
Long in our happy land.  
God save the Queen."

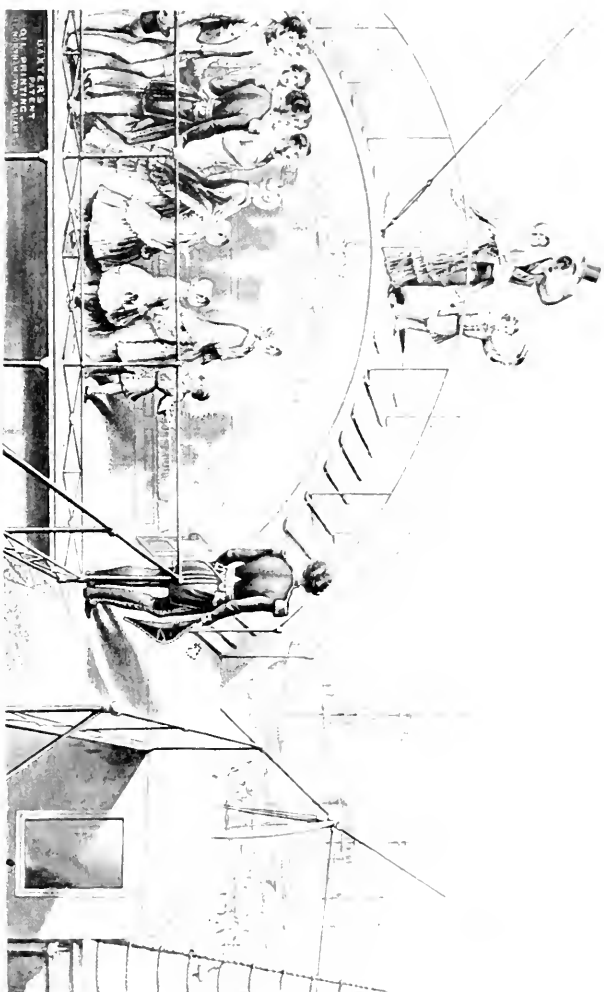
During the progress through the streets of Dublin a fawn-coloured dove, ornamented with white ribbons, was lowered to Her Majesty from the arch in Eccles Street. The Queen, who seemed very pleased, held the bird out to the Royal children, and the Prince of Wales finally obtained possession of it. At the Levée the Queen wore a dress of exquisitely shaded Irish poplin of emerald green, richly wrought with shamrocks in gold embroidery. No British sovereign had visited Ireland since 1821, when George IV. spent some days in Dublin.

*Punch* once more takes credit for the Prince of Wales's "Jack Tar" costume, and "hastens to contradict an absurd rumour that it is the intention of our Most Gracious Sovereign to reside permanently in the sister island. This ridiculous report has arisen from the prevalent impression that Her Majesty has gone to Ireland for good."

Before quitting Dublin the Queen paid a visit to the venerable Duke of Leinster, whose uncle, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, had died, "attainted" just half a century before, of wounds received while resisting his arrest on a charge of high treason. Of her genial host at Carton the Queen writes with undisguised enthusiasm :

"The Duke is one of the kindest and best of men. After luncheon we walked out and saw some of the country people dance jigs, which was very amusing. The Irish is quite different from the Scottish reel, not so animated, and the steps different, but very droll. The people are very





QUEEN VICTORIA, PRINCE ALBERT, AND THE PRINCE OF WALES LEAVING  
KINGSTOWN HARBOUR, AUGUST, 1849

*From a Barber colour-print*



## Irish Enthusiasm

poorly dressed, the men in thick coats, and the women in shawls, other men in blue coats and short breeches and blue stockings. There were three old pipers playing. The Irish pipe is very different from the Scottish. They do not blow into it, but merely have small bellows which they move with the arm. We walked around the pleasure-grounds, and after this got into a carriage with the Duke and Duchess, our ladies and gentlemen following in a large jaunting-car, and the people riding, running, and driving with us. The Duke is so kind to them that a word from him will make them do anything. It was very hot, and yet the people kept running the whole way, and in the thick woollen coats which it seems they always wear here."

Queen Victoria quitted Dublin with unfeigned regret. "We stood," she tells us, "on the paddle-box, as we slowly steamed out of Kingstown amid the cheers of thousands and thousands, and salutes from the ships. I waved my handkerchief as a parting acknowledgment of their loyalty." Then came a rough voyage northwards to Belfast. "The weather got worse and worse," writes the Queen, "and blew a real gale. Though we had only two minutes' row in the barge to go on board the *Fairy*, there was such a swell at the getting in and out, and the rolling and tossing of the boat were very disagreeable. We had to keep in a little pavilion, as the squalls were so violent as to cover the *Fairy* with spray. As we reached Belfast the sun fortunately came out. A very fine landing-place was arranged, where thousands were assembled."

"Queen's weather" (already a household word in Scotland) prevailed after all. The visit to

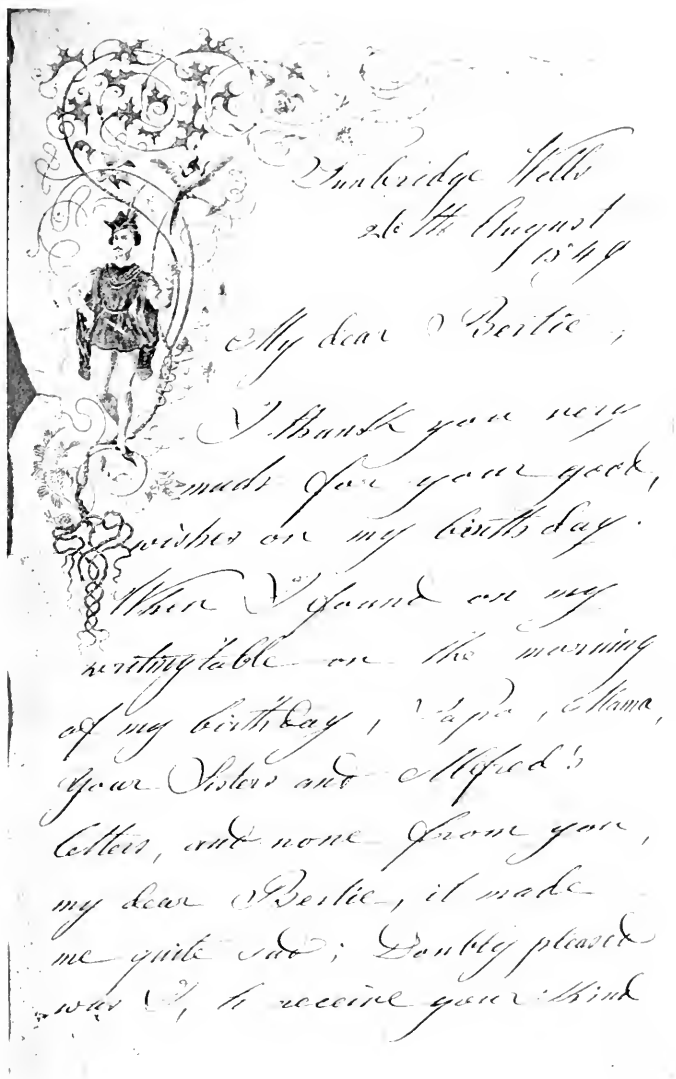
## The Boyhood of a Great King

Protestant Belfast was as pleasurable an experience as that to Catholic Cork, and the practical outcome of her brief but enjoyable sojourn there is thus placed on record by the Queen :

“ We left amid immense cheering, and reached the *Victoria and Albert* at half-past six. Many bonfires were lighted on the surrounding hills and coast. I intend to create *Bertie Earl of Dublin as a compliment to the town and country, though he is born* with several Scottish ones (belonging to the heirs to the Scottish throne, which he has inherited from *James VI.* of Scotland and *I.* of England), and this was one of my father’s titles ” [Sunday, August 12, 1849].

The enthusiasm provoked by the Queen’s Irish fortnight found a sympathetic echo in *Punch’s* cartoon : “ Ireland a dream of the future.” Before Loch Ryan was reached the Royal travellers experienced a nasty squall. “ Poor little Affie [Prince Alfred—the future sailor Prince *par excellence*] was thrown down and sent rolling over the deck, and was drenched, for the deck was swimming with water.”

“ The Court ” now revels for a whole month in its Highland *villeggiatura*. Prince Albert enjoys some record “ drives ” ; the Queen reads, sketches and keeps up her Journal, and the “ Royal children,” as the Court Newsman calls them, write letters and take lessons in the intervals of health-giving walks, rides and mountaineering. One of their most industrious correspondents was the Duchess of Kent (the kindly and affectionate “ grandmama-aunt ” of Prince Albert’s letters to Coburg). In February, 1848, she had written the Princess Royal the following letter, on a sheet of paper, edged all round with



FACSIMILE OF FIRST PAGE OF LETTER, DATED AUGUST 26, 1819

FROM THE DUCHESS OF KENT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES



## A Grandmother's Letters

garlands of foliage and flowers in black and gold, with angels at the top and figures of dancers in niches on either side :

“MY DEAREST VICKY,—I thank you very much for your kind and pretty letter, which I received this morning. I am very sad that my indisposition prevents me from going to town to see dear, dear Papa and dear Mama, you my beloved granddaughter, and your sisters and brothers, to whom I beg you to give my kindest love.

“I am happy to hear that you are all well, pray my dearest Vicky do not forget

“Your very affectionate and devoted

“GRANDMAMA.

“Frogmore, 10 *February*, 1848.”

It was now the Prince of Wales's turn to receive a letter, and on the thirtieth birthday of Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent writes thus :

“Tunbridge Wells, *August* 26, 1849.

“MY DEAR BERTIE,—I thank you very much for your good wishes on my birthday. When I found on my writing-table on the morning of my birthday, papa's, mama's, your sister's and Alfred's letters, and none from you, my dear Bertie, it made me quite sad ; doubly pleased was I to receive your kind note the day after my birthday. I wish you many happy returns of dear papa's birthday. I wish I could have passed this happy day with you all at Balmoral. God bless you, my dearest Bertie.

“Ever your very affectionate

“GRANDMOTHER.”

In one of the *Court Circulars* of this time it was chronicled that “the Prince of Wales had ridden out on horseback accompanied by Mr. Birch.”

## The Boyhood of a Great King

"This announcement," says *Punch*, with less good-nature than usual, "suggests a congratulatory remark on the progress of Royal education. James the First in his nonage was horsed and flogged, like any other youthful scholar, by his tutor. It is pleasing to reflect that the Prince of Wales's ride attended by Birch was a *bona fide* equestrian exercise."\*

During the month spent at Balmoral the Queen, Prince Albert and all their children went in pony phaetons to the Braemar gathering, and thoroughly enjoyed the Highland games. The resolution taken on board the yacht on that tranquil Sunday morning after leaving Belfast, was now carried into effect, and the *Gazette* announced that "the Queen had been pleased to direct Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal granting the dignity of an Earl of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland unto His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and his heirs, the Kings of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for ever by the name, seal and title of Earl of Dublin." The title thus created has now "merged in the Crown."

Allusion is made once more to the Royal etchings law-suit. Mr. Judge, one of the defendants, was imprisoned for non-payment of costs, but not-

\* What was approved of by the Queen at Balmoral did not always meet with her sanction in London. In the collection of Royal autographs frequently referred to in the course of this volume is the following letter from Her Majesty to Mr. Birch :

"QUEEN VICTORIA TO MR. BIRCH.

"The Prince of Wales told us that he had been riding in the streets on Saturday. We do not wish him to do this at present, and altogether not to ride out there at present except rarely, and in that case in the Park would have been the best place."





KING EDWARD VII. ON HORSEBACK, ABOUT THE AGE  
OF 10 (1851)

FROM A PAINTING BY A. HUNT, ENGRAVED BY J. B. HUNT



## A Memorable Civic Ceremony

withstanding the persecution to which for a long time he had exposed both Her Majesty and Prince Albert, a cheque for £180 was sent by Mr. Anson, the Prince's private secretary, from Balmoral, to Mrs. Judge, in order that she "might pay her husband's costs and extricate him from prison, and this in the hope that he would henceforth support his family by a more honourable industry."

The Queen and Prince Albert returned to Windsor much invigorated by their sojourn at Balmoral, and on October 15 Lord John Russell informed the Lord Mayor that the Queen would visit the City on the day of the opening of the Coal Exchange, and that she would be accompanied by Prince Albert, and it was hoped the Prince of Wales. It was about this time that the first mention is made of the fact that Prince Albert had suggested to the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was president, a great exhibition in London of the arts and manufactures of all nations. On October 20, the Lord Mayor announced that the Queen, in order to gratify the citizens of London, would allow the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal to accompany their Royal Parents upon the occasion of their visit to the city on the 30th inst., and that the invitation of the Corporation had been accepted by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as well as by the Duke of Wellington. In the early days of the following week the Queen became indisposed, and finally the disorder she was suffering from was found to be chicken-pox, which, though not severe, would certainly prevent her intended visit to the city. It thus came to pass that although the Queen was actually represented by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales played a more prominent part than was perhaps originally intended, in what may almost

## The Boyhood of a Great King

be described as his first public function. It was certainly one of a very interesting character, made more picturesque by the fact that the City was approached by water from Whitehall stairs.

The Royal barge, which had originally been built for Her Majesty's great grandfather, Frederick, Prince of Wales, had been re-gilt, and was rowed by twenty-two men. The Admiralty barge, drawn up close to it, was originally the gift of Prince George of Denmark to the council of the Admiralty. It was upon this barge that nearly forty-three years before the remains of Lord Nelson had been conveyed from Greenwich to St. Paul's. The scene was one never to be forgotten, the water being almost entirely covered with barges, boats, and wherries, including the last built Royal steamer. A fresh breeze from the west proved favourable to the display of the silken civic banners, and a line of brilliant colour was furnished by the crimson uniform of the watermen. The State barge was steered by Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, and the oarsmen wore their gold badges and black velvet caps. No spectacle of the kind had been seen on the Thames since the memorable water procession of August 1, 1835, when William IV. and Queen Adelaide were entertained by "Nelson's Hardy," at Greenwich. The Prince of Wales, who appeared to feel the solemnity of his first appearance within the boundaries of the City, looked a little pale. It is recorded that he wore a white waistcoat and trousers, black velvet coat with a single row of gilt buttons, a white turn-down collar, black neckerchief, and white cap with black band. The Princess Royal is said to have won all hearts in a pink quilted satin bonnet, with a small feather of the same colour at the side, black velvet mantle drawn in at the

## The Recorder's Address

waist, a green silk frock with white stripes and three flounces, and pale drab boots. The decorations of the new building were all of a very elaborate kind, and on seeing them the Duke of Cambridge could not forbear exclaiming audibly, as was his wont, "Beautiful, beautiful; very handsome." Amongst the diplomatists was the Prussian Minister, the Chevalier Bunsen, in whose memoirs is to be found so much about the domestic life of the English Royal Family at this epoch.

The Address was read so emphatically by the Learned Recorder [the Honourable Charles Ewan Law, Q.C.] that the Prince of Wales could hardly take his eye off him. This is hardly to be wondered at when we know he had to listen to such sonorous sentences as that in which his own presence and that of his sister was described as "betokening the pledges and promise of a line of illustrious descendants to preserve to the united house of Her Majesty and Your Royal Highness through future generations the hereditary throne of these realms." In his reply Prince Albert said: "Her Majesty ever relies on the fidelity of her free, loyal and religious people. It is our earnest hope that the Prince of Wales may be regarded with those feelings of affection which have, at all times, been the best security of the Throne."

Mr. John Wood, Chairman of the Committee of Management, was afterwards introduced to Prince Albert and called his attention to the chair provided for the youthful Prince with its beautiful canopy of feathers. The Duke of Cambridge had some talk with his nephew and niece, patting the Prince of Wales very affectionately on the head. A very elaborate *dejeûner* followed. The *Illustrated London News* says: "We are informed that

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the sherry was seventy years old and formed part of the same vintage of which a cask had been sent to Lord Nelson a few days before the battle of Trafalgar, and that the Prince of Wales partook of another kind such as had been supplied a short time previously for the table of the younger branches of the Royal Family of Spain." As another special compliment to the illustrious visitors the Royal Chair of State, so frequently used by the late Duke of Kent when presiding over charity dinners at the Albion Tavern, had been re-gilt, and brought down to the Coal Exchange. The health of the Prince of Wales was received with vociferous applause. The return journey was made on board the *Fairy* yacht, and before Prince Albert took his leave of the City dignitaries, he is reported to have said to his children: "Remember you are indebted to the Lord Mayor for one of the happiest days of your life." On the same evening Lord John Russell informed Lord Mayor Sir J. Duke that the Queen had directed that he should be created a Baronet, and at the same time expressed her special gratification at the reception accorded to Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal.

There are mentions both in the Queen's Journal and the correspondence of Lady Lyttelton, whose pride in the Prince of Wales was unbounded, of the memorable visit of "Puss" (the Princess Royal) and "the boy" (the Prince of Wales) to the City.

Queen Victoria was delighted to hear that "All London turned out to meet the gallant little Prince and his sister." Lady Lyttelton in a letter to Mrs. Gladstone gives a charming account of the event, and tells her how the Prince Consort was careful to put the Prince of Wales forward, and that some



QUEEN ADELAIDE





## A Narrow Escape

city dignitary addressed the young Prince as "the pledge and promise of a long race of kings," but, adds Lady Lyttelton naïvely, "poor Princey did not seem to guess at all what he meant."

It is not generally known that while staying at Osborne in the late autumn of 1849, on the occasion of a *battue* in the grounds, the Prince of Wales had a narrow escape from a severe and possibly fatal accident. He had, as usual, accompanied Prince Albert, and with the thoughtless impetuosity of the child, ran forward to pick up a bird which had been shot. At that moment a hare which had leaped up a little to the side of the direction the Prince had taken, was covered by Lord Canning's gun. Colonel Grey, who fortunately saw the Prince's danger, with admirable presence of mind, threw himself alongside of the Prince and received the charge in his coat, which otherwise would have lodged in the Prince's head and face. Lord Canning was so overcome by the accident that he fainted on the spot.

There were to be few birthday or Christmas festivities this year at Windsor. On November 9, the much-loved Queen Dowager, who had written so many interesting letters to her great nephew, the future King of England, as well as to his sister the Princess Royal, was on her death-bed. On December 2 she passed away, and before Christmas had been carried to her last resting-place beneath St. George's Chapel, on the shoulders of those sailors in whose welfare her husband, a sailor from his youth upwards, always took the deepest interest. The fifth decade of the nineteenth century ended in mourning and gloom, but neither the poor of Windsor nor those who had been the object of Queen Adelaide's bounty were forgotten by Queen Victoria.

## CHAPTER X

EARLY THEATRICAL EXPERIENCES AND REMINISCENCES OF KING EDWARD VII. THE WINDSOR THEATRICALS [1848-1858]. ROYAL NURSERY-PLAYS AND TABLEAUX [1853-1855]. THE GREAT AMATEUR PANTOMIME AT DRURY LANE [1855].

FROM the joyous days of the Restoration onwards the sovereigns of these realms have been consistent friends and patrons of the "player-folk," as they were familiarly known at a time when nine-tenths of our British Thespians were "rogues and vagabonds" by Statute. While David Garrick, in laced coat and hat, went to at least one levée at St. James's every season, and while the fortunate actors and actresses attached to the privileged Patent Theatres were pompously designated "His Majesty's Servants," their humbler provincial brothers and sisters (a Kemble and a Siddons amongst them) were stigmatised as "barn-stormers," and hunted pitilessly from pillar to post by over-zealous country Shallows and their myrmidons. George III. doubtless entertained that polite admiration for the famous "Davy," which was fashionable at the time of his accession, but all the enthusiasm of his riper years was reserved for Sarah Siddons (upon whose classic features Queen Victoria may have gazed) and John Quick, the low comedian, dubbed by Mathews in the days of his retirement, the "Diocletian of Islington," in whose quips and jokes, uttered

## The Windsor Theatricals

“with a squeak like a Bart’lemew fiddle,” the King took much delight. Year after year they were “commanded” to Weymouth, and weighty indeed must be the State business which could interfere with their Majesties’ engagements at the cosy little theatre, where, on the rising of the curtain, Elliston is said one evening to have discovered King George fast asleep in the recesses of the royal box. Since then the meteoric career of Edmund Kean had begun and ended, leaving Macready, the Etonian, to become the principal star in the dramatic constellation during the first years of Queen Victoria’s reign, when Mary Amelia Warner and Fanny Kemble also enjoyed a large share of Court favour. Charles Kean, Benjamin Webster and John Baldwin Buckstone were all three at the zenith of their fame in 1848, when the “Windsor Theatricals” (soon to become a power in the land) were planned and carried out under the auspices of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. At the end of the first season the whole of the text of the various plays produced, together with the official lists of the company present, and the different programmes edged with paper filagree-work, were collected by Mr. Webster, and published, with gorgeously illuminated title-pages in the form of what would now be called an *édition de luxe*. In letters of gold “Royal Entertainments,” as this dainty quarto volume was named by its compiler, is respectfully dedicated to the “nobility, gentry and public in general, who have loyally and liberally seconded the patronage bestowed by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.”

The moving spirit from the onset behind the curtain was Charles Kean, like Macready an Etonian. Off the stage the chief organiser of the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“Windsor Theatricals” for many years was Colonel the Honourable C. B. Phipps. The first performance took place in the Rubens Room, Windsor Castle, on the evening of Thursday, December 28, 1848. On this occasion “Her Majesty’s Servants” performed by command Shakespeare’s play of the “Merchant of Venice,” with the following caste :

Duke of Venice	.	.	.	Mr. DIDDEAR
Antonio ( <i>the Merchant of Venice</i> )	.			Mr. ROGERS
Bassanio ( <i>his friend</i> )	.	.	.	Mr. A. WIGAN
Salanio	} <i>Friends to Antonio and Bassanio</i>		{	Mr. BOYCE
Salarino				Mr. CONWAY
Gratiano				Mr. WEBSTER
Lorenzo ( <i>in love with Jessica</i> )	.			Mr. LEIGH MURRAY
Shylock ( <i>a Jew</i> )	.	.	.	Mr. CHARLES KEAN
Tubal ( <i>a Jew, his friend</i> )	.	.		Mr. HOWE
Launcelot Gobbo ( <i>a Clown—servant to Shylock</i> )	.	.	.	Mr. KEELEY
Old Gobbo ( <i>Father to Launcelot</i> )	.			Mr. ADDISON
Leonardo ( <i>Servant to Bassanio</i> )	.			Mr. FIELD
Balthazar	} <i>Servants to Portia</i>		{	Mr. CLARKE
Stephano				Mr. COE
Portia ( <i>a rich Heiress</i> )	.			Mrs. CHARLES KEAN
Nerissa ( <i>her Waiting Maid</i> )	.			Mrs. KEELEY
Jessica ( <i>daughter to Shylock</i> )	.	.		Mrs. COMPTON

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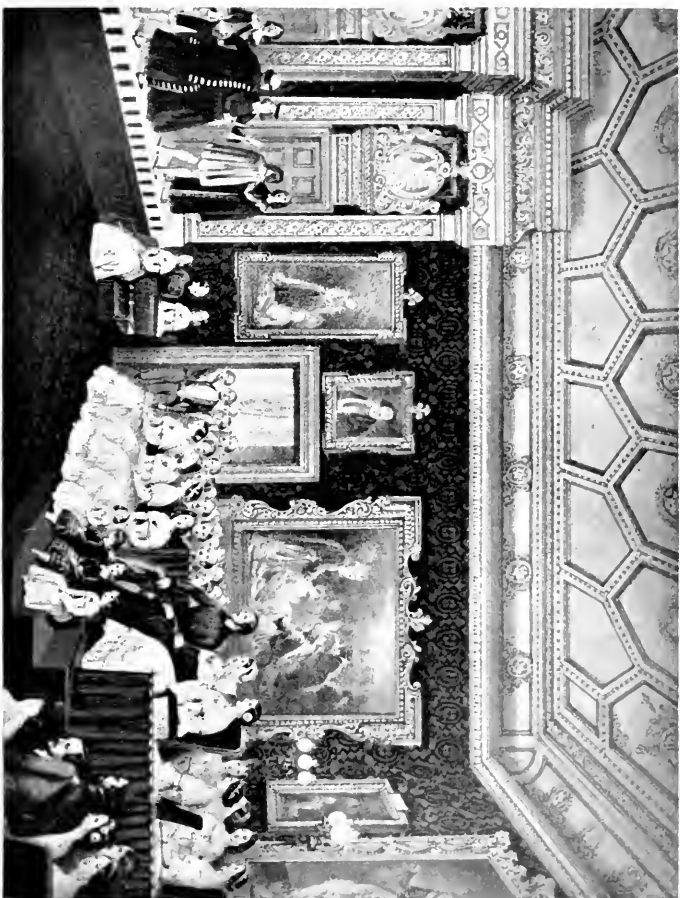
Director, Mr. CHARLES KEAN

Assistant Director, Mr. GEORGE ELLIS

Prompter and Stage Manager, Mr. FRED. WEBSTER

The Theatre Arranged and the Scenery Painted by  
Mr. THOMAS GRIEVE.

The name of the Prince of Wales does not appear in the list of those present on this notable “first-night,” but he clearly figures in the illustration of the scene from the “Merchant of Venice,” which forms the frontispiece of Mr. Webster’s book. About that there can be no mistake. The second performance came off a week later. Here is



FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE "WINDSOR THEATRICALS" IN THE ETHERS ROOM,  
WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1818

*From a contemporary colour-print*



# A Windsor Programme

the programme and the full list of Her Majesty's guests :

## ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT.

By COMMAND.

Her Majesty's Servants will Perform, at Windsor Castle,

*On Thursday, January 4, 1849,*

A Comic Drama, in Two Acts, adapted from the French by

DION BOUCICAULT, entitled,

## USED UP.

Sir Charles Coldstream, Bart.	. Mr. CHARLES MATHEWS
Sir Adonis Leech . . . .	. Mr. GRANBY
Honorable Tom Saville . .	. Mr. BELLINGHAM
Wurzel ( <i>a Farmer</i> ) . . . .	. Mr. F. COOKE
John Ironbrace ( <i>a Blacksmith</i> )	. Mr. HOWE
Mr. Fennell ( <i>a Lawyer</i> ) . . .	. Mr. HORNER
James . . . . .	. Mr. CLARKE
Mary . . . . .	. Mrs. JACOB BARROW
	(Late Miss Julia Bennett)
Lady Clutterbuck . . . .	. Mrs. HUMBY

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After which, a Farce, in One Act, by JOHN MADDISON MORTON  
entitled

## BOX AND COX,

A ROMANCE OF REAL LIFE.

John Box ( <i>a Journeyman Printer</i> )	. Mr. BUCKSTONE
James Cox ( <i>a Journeyman Hatter</i> )	. Mr. HARLEY
Mrs. Bouncer ( <i>a Lodging-house Keeper</i> )	Mrs. STANLEY

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Director . . . . . Mr. CHARLES KEAN

---

The Theatre Arranged and the Scenery Painted by  
Mr. THOMAS GRIEVE.



HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

# The Boyhood of a Great King

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ALICE MAUD MARY.  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE ALFRED ERNEST.

*The following Distinguished Persons were present :*

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.	The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Ashley.
Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary.	General and Lady Isabella Wemyss.
Their Serene Highnesses the Princesses Amelie and Elise of Hohenlohe Schillingsfurst.	General and Mrs. Scott.
His Serene Highness the Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar.	General Bowles.
His Excellency Monsieur Van de Weyer and Madame Van de Weyer.	Colonel the Hon. C. B. and Mrs. Phipps.
His Excellency the Chevalier Bunsen.	Colonel and Mrs. Challoner.
The Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay.	Sir George and Lady Couper and Miss Couper.
The Viscountess Canning.	The Lord in Waiting.
The Marchioness of Waterford.	The Groom in Waiting.
The Countess of Mansfield and two Ladies Murray.	The Equerry in Waiting.
Lady Fanny Howard.	The Baron Stockmar.
Lady Augusta Cadogan.	Captain F. Seymour.
Lady Caroline Somers Cocks.	Mr. and Miss Meynell.
Lady Mary Berkeley.	Mr. and Mrs. Seymour.
The Dowager Lady and Miss Lyttelton and Miss Carew.	Mrs. Crutchley.
Hon. Miss Matilda Paget.	The Equerry in Waiting on His Royal Highness Prince Albert.
The Lord and Lady Ruthven.	Baron Knesebeck.
The Viscount Clifden.	Dr. Meyer.
Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. G. E. Anson.	Mr. Glover.
	The Commanding Officer and two Officers of the Second Life Guards.
	The Commanding Officer and two Officers of the Coldstream Guards.
	Miss Hildyard.*
	Madame Roland de la Lonso* and Mdle. Grüner.*

“Hamlet” was the play selected for the following week (January 11, 1849). The caste was as follows :

Claudius ( <i>King of Denmark</i> )	Mr. DIDDEAR
Hamlet	Mr. CHARLES KEAN

\* These three ladies were all governesses in the Royal Family for several years, and took some part or other in the early education of King Edward VII.



## “Hamlet’s Coming”

Polonius . . . . .	MR. W. FARREN
Horatio . . . . .	MR. HOWE
Laertes . . . . .	MR. LEIGH MURRAY
Rosencrantz . . . . .	MR. CONWAY
Guildestern . . . . .	MR. BOYCE
Osrick . . . . .	MR. A. WIGAN
Marcellus . . . . .	MR. J. HOWARD
Bernardo . . . . .	MR. CLIFFORD
Francisco . . . . .	MR. A. BRINDAL
Ghost . . . . .	MR. VANDENHOFF
First Actor . . . . .	MR. G. COOKE
Second Actor . . . . .	MR. CLARK
Gertrude ( <i>Queen of Denmark</i> ) . . . . .	MRS. WARNER
Ophelia ( <i>Daughter to Polonius</i> ) . . . . .	MRS. CHARLES KEAN
Actress . . . . .	MRS. F. SAVILE

The Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice were all present, sitting in front of the raised seats occupied by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Amongst the guests were Baron Stockmar, Lady Lyttelton, Miss Hildyard, Madame Roland and Mdlle. Grüner. On January 18 “The Stranger,” and John Oxenford’s “Twice Killed,” brought the four performances to a triumphant conclusion. The Keeleys played in both pieces, parts in “The Stranger” being taken by Mr. Creswick and Mrs. German Reed (late Miss P. Horton), who had not appeared at either of the preceding performances. Of course, some jealousy (a feeling not altogether strange to the actor’s calling) was rife. As regards the first night’s programme, *Punch* observed that “The actors had been picked and sifted from the various London theatres. . . . Her Majesty had graciously commanded the presence of all her Ministers. The sublimity of Portia’s appeal for mercy made its way direct to the feelings of the Home Secretary.”

“Hamlet,” of course, afforded a still better opportunity, and under the attractive title of

## The Boyhood of a Great King

"Hamlet's Coming," the public were gravely assured that "the tragedy of Charles Kean, as was expected, will have a lasting effect on the minds of the Royal children. We have the best authority for stating that when any of the illustrious infants are at all refractory Lady Lyttelton has only to say 'Hamlet's coming,' and they are still as mice."

For eleven years the Windsor Theatricals held their own, until interrupted for a very lengthy period by the death of the Prince Consort. Nearly five years after the first performance Colonel Phipps addressed the following letter to Mr. Benjamin Webster, which explains very clearly the totally disinterested motives which prompted the Queen to seek, by this new departure, to assist the best interests of the English stage :

"Brighton, Oct. 17, 1853.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. Kean will always in future write you a note when it is wished to have the advantage of the assistance of a Gentleman or Lady of your Company. I hope this may be satisfactory. If you will be good enough to refer again to my Letter in which I proposed a plan which I regret to say I have found it impracticable to carry out this season, you will find that it is no part of that proposal that any theatre should give an 'unassisted performance.' What I wished was that each theatre should in its turn bring forward some new or stock play, which they should have the advantage of afterwards bringing out with the prestige of having been selected for performance at Windsor. By this it was intended to benefit both Managers and Authors, but although naturally the majority of the parts would be cast in the Company by which it was to be afterwards performed, the principle

## Mr. C. B. Phipps Explains

which has ever ruled the performances at Windsor of making the representation as perfect as possible by selection from the whole profession was always to have been carried out ; and it was on account of the maintenance of this principle that some of the managers with whom I communicated, objected to its feasibility.

“ The managers would probably prefer that the piece should be put upon the Royal Stage, exactly as it was to be brought out at some particular theatre. But I cannot see that in this way any step in advance would be gained, or the object would be achieved of showing how perfect an English play might be made. In the present state of the Drama in London the theatres are so numerous, and so nearly upon a par, that although the entertainment at any one theatre may be very amusing and highly creditable, it is not possible to collect in one Company all those who would best delineate the great varieties of comic or tragic character. To give you an instance. I have seen in your former theatre the Haymarket some of the most perfect comic performances I ever witnessed, but to prepare these plays again it would be necessary to get yourself and the Keeleys from the Adelphi—Buckstone from the Haymarket, Kean from the Princess’s, and Wigan from the Olympic, and yet it would be a fallacy to suppose that these parts could be equally well fitted by others.

“ The object of the Windsor plays has been to raise the character of the British Drama in every way—to show how nearly perfect it may be made, and thus to cause it to be admired, and become *fashionable* (which is the great element of success in London). I believe that this object has been to a great degree obtained. The English theatres

## The Boyhood of a Great King

are very much frequented now by the leaders of fashion (as they are called), the Drama forms a constant subject of conversation, and I believe all theatres have felt the advantages of these circumstances. When in London I shall be happy to receive the advantage of some personal communication with you to discuss these matters, as I shall always be anxious to receive the opinions of practical people on these matters.

“Sincerely yours,  
“C. B. PHIPPS.”

The histrionic ability of the Prince of Wales at this time (1849-1853) was certainly not less marked than that of his great-grandfather, King George III., who played Cato at nine,\* or his great-uncle, King George IV.,† who delivered Cicero's oration against Cataline before his royal father and mother in the Picture Gallery at Windsor Castle on the evening of his sixteenth birthday. By a strange coincidence the performance at Leicester House took place exactly a century before the institution of the Windsor Theatricals, nor is it less curious that the apartment which was the scene of George, Prince of Wales's oratory on August 12, 1778, was seventy years later again utilised for almost an identical purpose by his great nephews and nieces. In January 1853 (while Mr. Kean was engaged on the impending production of “Paul Pry” and “The Lucky Friday”) some scenes from Racine's “Athalie” were given by the Prince of Wales and his brothers and sisters with complete success, and to the unfeigned delight of their parents and those members of the Royal

\* See *ante*, p. 5.

† See *ante*, p. 6.



SCENE FROM RACINE'S TRAGEDY OF "ATHALIE"

AS PLAYED BY THE ROYAL CHILDREN AT WINDSOR, IN JANUARY 1853 (SEE TEXT)

*From a drawing by the late Queen Victoria*



## King Edward VII. as "Abner"

Household who were present. The caste was as follows :

### ATHALIE, JANUARY 1853.

Abner . . . .	PRINCE OF WALES (aged 11)
Athalie . . . .	PRINCESS ROYAL (aged 12)
Josabeth . . . .	H. SEYMOUR (aged 10) *
Joad . . . .	PRINCESS ALICE (aged 10)
Levite . . . .	C. PHIPPS (aged 9) †
Levite . . . .	H. SEYMOUR (aged 10) ‡
Zacharia . . . .	PRINCESS LOUISE (aged 5)
Salomith . . . .	F. SEYMOUR
Joas . . . .	PRINCE ALFRED (aged 8½)
Agar . . . .	PRINCESS HELENA (aged 7)

Long years after, in her preface to her life of her sister, Princess Alice, the Princess Christian (the seven-year old Agar of 1853) writes as follows :

" Little theatrical pieces performed by the Royal children on festive anniversaries in the family—partly, too, with a view of gaining facility in foreign languages—were the field in which the young Princess decidedly distinguished herself. No child ever performed the part of the High Priest Joad in Racine's ' Athalie ' with more dignity and with a more pleasing intonation : and a more delightful German ' Red Ridinghood ' than the Princess in the little piece of that name by Madame Jonas, never appeared upon the stage."§ Two or three

\* The present Marquis of Hertford. Son of Sir Francis Seymour (Equerry to the Prince Consort), born 1853.

† Eldest son of the late Sir C. Phipps (Treasurer of the Household to the Prince Consort). Mr. C. Phipps, who was born in 1844, now lives in British Columbia. Mrs. Chaine and the Honble. Harriet Phipps are his sisters.

‡ Horace Seymour, afterwards Master of the Mint. He was the son of Captain and Lady Augusta Seymour, and was born in 1843. Charlotte, Countess Spencer, was his sister.

§ " On the 10th February (1855) the anniversary of the Queen's marriage-day, there was, as usual, a home festival, with the nursery

## The Boyhood of a Great King

weeks later (February 10, 1853) the little German play known as "Die Tafel Birnen" ("Dessert Apples") was given, this time exclusively, by the youthful Princes and Princesses :

Max . . . . .	PRINCE OF WALES
Louise . . . . .	PRINCESS ROYAL
Annette . . . . .	PRINCESS ALICE
Albert . . . . .	PRINCE ALFRED
Conrad . . . . .	PRINCESS HELENA
Minna . . . . .	PRINCESS LOUISE

In the "Memoirs of Baron Bunsen" (p. 328) his widow gives a very full account of a masque or series of tableaux: "contrived" by the Royal children in honour of the fourteenth anniversary of the wedding of the Queen and Prince Albert (February 10, 1854), which is also alluded to by Princess Christian, when writing of the extraordinary powers of acting possessed by the Princess Alice. It was of this very day that Queen Victoria wrote in her Journal: "Fourteen happy and blessed years have passed, and I confidently hope many more will, and find us in old age, as we are now, happy and devotedly united. Trials we must have; but what are they if we are together?"\* "Between five and six in the evening," says the Baroness Bunsen, "the company followed the Queen and the Prince to a room where a red curtain was let down. We all sat in darkness till the curtain was drawn aside, and the Princess Alice, who had been dressed to represent Spring, recited some verses taken from Thomson's 'Seasons,' enumerating the flowers which the spring scatters around, and she drama of 'Little Red Riding Hood,' performed by the younger members of the family, and appropriate verses spoken by the Princess Alice, who seems to have been the chosen declaimer among the princes and princesses" [Tytler, vol. ii. p. 131].

\* "Life of Queen Victoria," by Sarah Tytler, vol. ii. pp. 124-125.





DIE TAFFEL BIRNEN, FEBRUARY 10, 1853

PLAY ACTED BY FIVE OF THE ROYAL CHILDREN

*From a drawing by Queen Victoria*



## Tableaux by the Royal Children

did it very well, speaking in a distinct and pleasing manner, with excellent modulation and a tone of voice like that of the Queen. Then the curtain was (again) drawn up and the whole scene changed, and the Princess Royal represented Summer, with Prince Arthur\* lying upon some sheaves, as if tired with the heat of the harvest work; the Princess Royal also recited verses, and looked very well. Then there was another change, and Prince Alfred, with a crown of vine-leaves and a panther's skin, represented Autumn, and recited also verses, and looked very well. Then there was a change to Winter landscape, and the Prince of Wales represented Winter, with a white beard and a cloak with icicles or snow-flakes (or what looked like such), and the Princess Louise, warmly clothed, who seemed watching the fire; and the Prince also recited well a passage altered from Thomson. Then another change was made, and all the seasons were grouped together, and far behind, on high, appeared the Princess Helena, with a long veil hanging down on each side to her feet, and a long cross in her hand, pronouncing a blessing on the Queen and Prince in the name of all the seasons. These verses were composed for the occasion. I understood them to say that St. Helena, remembering her own British extraction, came to utter a blessing on the rulers of her country; and I think it must have been so intended. . . . At any rate the Princess Helena looked charming. This was the close, but when the Queen ordered the curtain to be drawn back, we saw the whole royal family, and they were helped to jump down from their raised platforms. At the dinner-table, the Princesses Helena and Louise and Prince Arthur were allowed to come in and stand

\* Not yet four years old.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

by their mamma, the Queen, as it was a festival day. In the evening there was very fine music in St. George's Hall, and the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice were allowed to stop up and hear it, sitting to the right and left of the chairs where sat the Queen and Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent." It was the tableaux of the Seasons which gave the first idea of the four well-known statuettes of the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice and Prince Alfred, sculptured by Mrs. Thornycroft, and subsequently engraved by W. Roffe. The story of these school-room dramas as played in the early "fifties" of the last century at Windsor and Osborne, illustrates very happily the important part which the Queen and Prince Albert allowed the dramas of England, France and Germany, to play in shaping the minds and developing the intelligence of all their children.

Later, in the spring of the same year in which "Little Red Riding Hood" was "planned and played" by the Princess Alice and her brothers and sisters, the Prince of Wales accompanied the Queen and Prince Albert to witness a theatrical performance within the historical walls of "Old Drury," which excited at the time an amount of public attention almost without a precedent in the annals of the stage. Although all the principal actors in the Amateur Pantomime of 1855 have passed away, some of them have left on record their appreciation of the alertness, keen sense of humour, and unflagging attention, manifested by the Prince of Wales in the quips and cranks of three of the most daring and successful mirth-provokers\* of the mid-nineteenth century. Under the auspices of the Fielding Club "Harlequin Guy Fawkes"

\* Thomas Knox Holmes, Edmund Yates and Albert Smith.

## The Great Amateur Pantomime

had achieved on March 31 a triumph which threw all former successes of the now vanished "Olympic" into the shade. John Oxenford had used words of commendation in *The Times* such as rarely fall to the lot of the ordinary actor. "It was," he wrote, "when Mr. T. K. Holmes entered in the dress of Guy Fawkes, and bowed his forehead down to his toes, with all that freedom from bone which is peculiar to pantomimic art, that the new sensation was produced. Yes! people really began to believe that an amateur pantomime was possible." "Tom" Holmes, the son of "Billy" Holmes, the great Tory wirepuller of a hundred years ago, who had seen Sarah Siddons act, had supped with "Davy" Garrick's widow, and had taken the message announcing the victory of Waterloo to the Alfred Club, lived down to the very threshold of the twentieth century. He left behind him ample materials for a biographical volume of surpassing interest, but the opportunity was missed. In 1887 he made the following note:

"The amateur pantomime at Drury Lane was honoured by the presence of all the Royal Family. The gross receipts were above £1200, but as the 5s. gallery tickets were afterwards sold at £1 1s. a-piece, above £2000 was paid by the audience; the largest amount ever taken in that theatre. In that I played the principal character in the opening scenes. This performance was in aid of Wellington College, to which it contributed £700. Never can I forget the hearty enjoyment it afforded to the Prince of Wales with whom all our jokes seemed to go home at once." In his "Recollections,"\* Edmund Yates says: "The fame of the performance (at the Olympic) reached the ears of Royalty. The consequence was a command to repeat the

\* Vol. i. p. 277.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

pantomime in the presence of the Queen and the Prince Consort, a command which we obeyed shortly after at Drury Lane Theatre, with enormous success; H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, then a lad of fourteen, taking especial delight in the performance. The large receipts were handed, at Her Majesty's suggestion, to the Royal Naval Female School—an admirable institution, which, in gratitude for the bounty of the Fielding Club, made three of its committee-men life governors, the privileges of which permission I still enjoy. A large addition to the funds of Wellington College—the proceeds of the amateur pantomime, with a different 'opening' in the June of the following year—did not, if I remember rightly, elicit anything but a bare expression of thanks." Mr. Holmes and Mr. Yates are in evident disaccord as to the ultimate destination of the proceeds of "Guy Fawkes," but they are in perfect agreement as to the impression their wit made on the mind of the Heir Apparent. Mr. Bidwell (a name still associated with the honoured traditions of the Foreign Office) was Harlequin, and Mr. J. Robins, Clown; the rôles of Pantaloon and Catesby fell to Arthur and Albert Smith; Edmund Yates was the lover, and Miss Rosina Wright, one of the most charming actresses of that time, Columbine. "Hot Codlins" was demanded with an insistence King Edward VII. still probably remembers, and Mr. Oxenford has made it historical that "The famous legend of the little old woman," was sung by Mr. J. Robins,\* "with all contortions of voice and

\* The "Amateur Pantomime" ended by provoking a very pretty quarrel. Mr. J. Robins was the son of the grandiloquent auctioneer, George Robins. A few days after the performance a letter appeared from one Julian Robins, protesting that he was not the J. Robins

## King Edward VII. and the Drama

countenance which would have satisfied the most rigid judge of pantomimic proprieties."

Fifty years all told have fled since "Harlequin Guy Fawkes" was the talk of all London west of Temple Bar. During the whole of this half-century of movement and change, the national stage has had no more discriminating and loyal friend and consistent protector than the Sovereign of to-day, who, as Prince of Wales, fostered and encouraged all the good work accomplished and salutary reforms effected by the talents and energy of Sir Henry Irving, Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham (whose well-merited honours immediately followed the King's accession), the late Sir Augustus Harris, Mr. John Hare, and Mr. George Alexander; and somewhat later, by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. Arthur Bouchier. It has been (despite the protests of the cavillers and the croakings of the faddists) a period of healthy progress, and the "player-folk" acknowledge with gratitude to-day all that has resulted from that broad and comprehensive scheme of education, devised in the forgotten "forties," which made an intelligent experience of the drama (in the most catholic sense of the term) part and parcel of the early upbringing of a great King.

who played the Clown. "As people have been good enough to take me for the buffoon (our initials being similar) I most respectfully beg insertion for this letter, not caring to be thought a Clown myself, nor wishing to rob the great Mr. J. Robins of his just meed of honour." It was written from 14 Albert Road, Regent's Park. It was promptly replied to by Edmund Yates and W. P. Hall, Joint Secretaries of the Garrick and Fielding Clubs, and correspondence appeared in several papers, acrimonious in the extreme, and certainly not in the best taste.

## CHAPTER XI

WORK AND PLAY IN THE EARLY "FIFTIES"—

THE DAYS OF THE PALACE OF CRYSTAL

1850-1853

THE next four years were fraught with many momentous events as far as the history of the British Empire is concerned, although nothing was allowed to disturb the even tenour of the studies pursued by the Prince of Wales, first under the care of Mr. Henry Birch (1849-1851), and then under that of Mr. F. W. Gibbs (1852-1855), both tutors being at all times subject to the vigilant care and constant supervision of the Queen and Prince Albert. In the opinion of Mr. Birch as well as in the estimation of Mr. Gibbs, the Heir Apparent showed an aptness for study and a natural intelligence far above the average possessed by boys of his own age. Gifted with a memory for facts and faces almost phenomenal, he acquired foreign languages with astonishing rapidity, and his taste for art in the widest sense of the term was certainly hereditary. Very few contemporary statesmen can, like King Edward VII., speak and write at least three languages with equal fluency and correctness. His tact also seems to be innate, and his powers as an impromptu speaker have scarcely met with the recognition they merit. The foundations of much that distinguishes him to-day were laid carefully and patiently in those first years of the sixth decade of the nineteenth



## The Early "Fifties"

century which were destined to witness the deaths of Wordsworth, Peel and Wellington; the formation and collapse of two Cabinets; the passing away from the ranks of Royalty of the Duke of Cambridge and the Queen of the Belgians: the general unrest caused by the Papal Aggression, and the inception, erection and successful inauguration in Hyde Park of the Great Exhibition of all Nations, which far from proving the harbinger of a long and universal peace, turned out to be the immediate prelude of the *coup d'État* which made the quondam exile Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, and the forerunner of the Crimean War. Before the four years were ended, the English and French fleets had entered the Bosphorus, and the outbreak of hostilities was regarded on all hands as imminent and inevitable.

The weather during the first days of January (1850) was very severe, and Prince Albert and his elder sons were able to indulge in their favourite pastimes of sledging and skating. Before the month was over a representative meeting held in the City had declared itself, with every token of enthusiasm, in favour of the proposed World's Fair, which was to bring all Europe to London in the spring and summer of the following year. Undeterred by a passing wave of unpopularity in the provinces, Prince Albert devoted the whole of his constitutional energies to the realisation of his favourite project. On February 1 the first of the dramatic performances of the season took place in the Rubens room at Windsor Castle.\* The play presented was "Julius Cæsar," the title *rôle* being interpreted by Mr. Charles Fisher, with Mr. Macready as "Marcus Brutus," Mr. Charles Kean as "Marcus Antonius,"

\* See chap. ix., pp. 244-259.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

and Mr. Leigh Murray as "Octavius Cæsar." Mrs. Warner (always a great favourite with Queen Victoria) acted the part of "Portia," and Mrs. Saville that of Cæsar's wife. Both the Queen's Closet and the King's Council Chamber were placed at the disposal of the actors, who possessed a Green Room such as no theatre in the world could boast of. The two plays selected for performance on February 8 were "King René's Daughter," from the German version of a Danish poem, abridged and adapted for stage representation by the Hon. Edmund Phipps with Mr. James Wallack as King René, Mr. Charles Kean as Count Tristram, Mrs. Charles Kean as Iolanthe, and Mrs. F. Saville as Martha. The play was admirably mounted and was followed by Mr. J. R. Planché's "Charles XII," Mr. Webster taking the title *rôle*, with Mr. Charles Kean, Mr. Leigh Murray, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Wallack and Mr. Harley in other parts. The female parts were played by Miss Jane Mordaunt and Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam. The Windsor productions now, as the Queen hoped, began to find favour in the eyes of the London managers, and within a few days of this notable performance the production of "Charles XII." was announced simultaneously at two London theatres.

In April the Court was, as usual, at Buckingham Palace, and on the 20th of that month the Prince of Wales was present (in happy unconsciousness of the difficulties of Algeciras conferences half a century later) at the inspection of Arab horses sent to the Queen by the then Sultan of Morocco. The Moors who came to England with the gifts for the Queen were taken to see the whole of the sights of London, including the Zoological Gardens, Astley's, Albert Smith's entertainment, the Colli-

## A Birthday Party

seum, three panoramas, and the Tower. Before they left, their confession "There is only one God, and Mahommed is His Prophet," was supplemented by the cry "There is no other Queen but the Queen of England." On April 21 the Prince received the following letter from the Duchess of Kent :

" Clarence House, *April 21, 1850.*

" MY DEAREST BERTIE,—I thank you very much for your kind inquiries ; my cold is nearly gone. I trust I shall very soon have the happiness to receive a visit from you, as that will show me that you have been a good boy, which nobody is more anxious you should always be than

" Your very affectionate

" GRANDMAMA."

On April 27 the seventh birthday of the clever and popular Princess Alice was commemorated by a juvenile party at Buckingham Palace. She was now the pet as well as the beauty of the family, and the chosen playmate of her elder brothers, who doted on her. A year later than this (April 25, 1851) Lady Lyttelton wrote :

" Dear Princess Alice is too pretty, in her low frock and pearl necklace, tripping about and blushing and smiling at her honours. The whole family, indeed, appear to advantage on birthdays ; no tradesman or country squire can keep one with such hearty simple affection and enjoyment. *One* present I think we shall all wish to live further off ; a live lamb, all over pink ribbons and bells. He is already the greatest pet, as one may suppose. Princess Alice's pet lamb is the cause of many tears. He will not take to his mistress, but runs away lustily, and will soon butt at her, though she is most coaxy, and said to him in her sweetest tones, after kissing

## The Boyhood of a Great King

his nose often, ‘Milly, *dear* Milly! *do* you like me?’”

It was of the Princess Alice’s birthday *fête* of 1850, that *Punch* says :

“At five o’clock in the afternoon Her Majesty received a small juvenile party. The Queen, accompanied by the Royal children, received the youthful visitors in the saloon, in which the juveniles danced, and afterwards proceeded to the library where refreshments were served. Here is an admirable example to those who are in the habit of giving children’s parties, commencing at 8 or 9 P.M., and terminating at one or two in the morning, when the jaded juveniles crawl away with at least six months’ health taken out of them by late hours, excitement and fatigue.” \*

Three days after the royal “small and early,” the Queen’s seventh child and third son† was born, like the Prince of Wales, at Buckingham Palace. Mrs. Lilly had once more assumed the reins of office. The following bulletin was issued :

“Buckingham Palace, *Wednesday, May 1, 1850.*

“The Queen was safely delivered of a Prince at 17 minutes after 8 o’clock this morning. Her Majesty and the infant Prince are well.

“JAMES CLARKE, M.D.

“CHARLES LOCOCK, M.D.

“ROBERT FERGUSON, M.D.”

The Queen’s recovery was unusually rapid, and before a fortnight was over the approaching

\* *Punch*, vol. xviii. p. 117.

† Now the Duke of Connaught, K.G., Inspector-General of his Majesty’s Forces, and Most Worshipful Grand Master of English Freemasons.

## Birth of Prince Arthur

removal of the Court to Windsor was discussed. This in no way interfered with the gaieties of the London season, and the papers are full of the magnificent entertainment given by Miss Coutts "at her mansion in Stratton Street to His Grace the Duke of Wellington, and a distinguished circle of nobility." Somehow or other, the intended name of the "May Prince" leaked out, and *Punch*, always equal to the occasion, gravely writes :

"It has been authoritatively announced that the new Prince, having been born on the birthday of the Duke of Wellington, is to be called Arthur, in compliment to the Hero of Waterloo. We perfectly approve of the arrangement, and regret that we cannot second the suggestion of a highly respectable deputation of chimney sweeps, who waited outside our office on Wednesday last, with a proposal that in consequence of the royal infant having been born on Chimney Sweepers' Day, he should be called the Black Prince."\* During the stay of the Queen at Osborne, excursions were made to various parts of the Isle of Wight, and on June 22—two days after the thirteenth anniversary of the Queen's accession—the newly-born Prince was baptized at Buckingham Palace by the name of Arthur William Patrick Albert. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, who were both present, were in Highland costume. His godfathers were the conqueror of Napoleon I. in 1815, and the future overthrower of Napoleon III. in 1870-1871. Could anything be more appropriate for the Inspector-General of His Majesty's forces in 1906? At the banquet the Lord Steward gave the following toast : "His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, His

\* *Punch*, vol. xviii. p. 182.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia, the Queen and Prince Albert."

On this occasion a chorale, specially composed by H.R.H. Prince Albert, was performed :

"In life's gay morn, ere sprightly youth  
By vice and follies is enslav'd,  
Oh ! may thy Maker's glorious name  
Be on thy infant mind engraved.  
So shall no shades of sorrow cloud  
The sunshine of thy early days ;  
But happiness in endless round  
Shall still encompass all thy ways."

Five days later the Queen received a blow from a stick levelled at her by a miscreant named Robert Pate, who had once held a commission in the Army. Although somewhat severely bruised, Her Majesty went to the Opera the same evening, when the whole audience vociferously demanded the singing of "God save the Queen." The first verse was given by Castellan ; the second by Viardot, and the third by Grisi.

*Punch* at this juncture published a capital cartoon on the Duke of Wellington visiting his godson, entitled "A real case of Caudle." The Exhibition question, and notably the controversy about the removal of some of the trees in Hyde Park, accounts for several other caricatures of the summer of 1850, such as "The Industrious Boy," "Albert, Spare that Tree," "A certain good Queen intercedes with a certain Prince for the unhappy Belgravians and other citizens," and the "Belgravians' Lament," with the lines :

" 'I too would ride,' she sweetly cried,  
'So, Albert, if you please,  
Don't—there's a darling—for my sake—  
Please don't cut down the trees.' "

On July 1 the Prince of Wales once again attended

## The Marlborough House Controversy

the Scottish *fête* at Holland House. The deaths of Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Cambridge put an end to the usual round of London festivities. It was at this time that Lord John Russell brought up a message from Her Majesty recommending her faithful Commons to grant Marlborough House to the Prince of Wales on his attaining the age of eighteen. A discussion took place on the subject in the House of Commons, after which, in spite of the protest of Mr. Hume, the proposal as to Marlborough House was agreed to. As the result arrived at would not take effect for some years, Lord John Russell said Her Majesty had meanwhile directed that it should be appropriated for the reception of the Vernon pictures from the National Gallery.

It was now that John Leech produced a cartoon\* almost as famous as the "Jack Tar" picture so frequently referred to. In it he depicts the Prince of Wales on a rocking horse with the British Lion as *paterfamilias*,—a profile picture of George IV. and the pagoda-like roofs of the Brighton Pavilion on the wall. The British Lion (*loq.*): "You want Mar'boro' House, and some stables!! Why, you'll be wanting a Latch Key next, I suppose."†

The greater part of the summer was spent at Osborne, of which place both the Queen and Prince Albert grew increasingly fond. A flying visit to King Leopold gave *Punch* an opportunity for some

\* *Punch*, vol. xix. p. 63.

† The wrangle over the grant of Marlborough House to the Prince of Wales originated in an absurd misunderstanding. From an autograph letter of the Princess Charlotte written in 1816, recently sold, it appears that at that date Prince Leopold had resolved (after much negotiation) to take a twelve years' lease of that residence from the then owner. The idea was abandoned on her death.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

harmless couplets entitled "The Progress to Ostend," commencing with the lines :

"King Leopold walked in plain olive surtout,  
And welcomed the Queen with a 'How d' ye do ?'  
And then the Prince Consort and then the Princesses,  
Then the Princes (so neat in their man-of-war dresses)."

On August 27, the Queen and Prince Albert set out on their journey to Scotland by rail, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal and Princess Alice travelling with Her Majesty. On the way to Holyhead, a visit was paid to Castle Howard, which the Queen appears to have thoroughly enjoyed. During the brief stay made in Edinburgh the Prince Consort laid the foundation-stone of the National Gallery, and the Queen wrote with pleasant memories of a drive with her four children over the new road round Arthur's Seat. Balmoral is reached in due course, and a few days later the Court Newsman gravely informed the Empire "that the Prince of Wales had, on September 3, driven out, accompanied by Mr. Birch." Of the Highland games of 1850 the Queen writes in her Journal: "We lunched early, and then went at half-past two o'clock with the children and all our party, except Lady Douro, to the gathering at the Castle of Braemar, as we did last year."

In October the Court is once more at Windsor, and it is decided that four theatrical performances were to take place this year at the Castle, the first to be on November 25. The only variation in the usual birthday festivities on November 9 was the appearance in the evening of Mr. Roberts, Welsh harper to the Prince of Wales, "who had the honour of performing before Her Majesty."

The Exhibition buildings in Hyde Park were now progressing rapidly, and necessitated the frequent



## Retirement of Lady Lyttelton

presence of Prince Albert in London, although the prophecies of peace were sadly belied by the Papal Aggression outcry and the holding of meetings of solemn protest all over the country.

The January of 1851 brought with it the first break in the early associations of the Prince of Wales. At the end of the first fortnight of the new year, Lady Lyttelton finally retired into private life, after nine years' devoted and unselfish service. On the previous December 5 she had written :

"The Queen has told me I may be free about the middle of January, and she said it with all the feeling and kindness of which I have received such incessant and unvarying proofs during the whole long twelve years that I have served her."

Six weeks later she thus records her last interview with the Queen (January 17, 1851) :

"In the evening I was sent for to my last audience in the Queen's own room, and I quite broke down and could hardly speak or hear. I remember the Prince's face pale as ashes, and a few words of praise and thanks from them both, but it is all misty ; and I had to stop on the private staircase and have my cry out before I could go up again."\*

Early in February the Queen and Prince Albert were present at Macready's farewell performance, and on Monday, February 17, the Queen and Prince Albert, with their three elder children, paid a prolonged visit to the Exhibition Building in Hyde Park, now rapidly nearing completion. They must

\* Sarah, Lady Lyttelton, who was born at the time Fanny Burney was in waiting at Windsor, lived till 1870, maintaining her keen interest in all that concerned her Royal charges of 1842-1851 till the very last.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

have returned to Windsor in the evening, as next day the Princess Royal (under the care of Miss Hildyard) wrote the following characteristic letter to the Prince of Wales (busy presumably, with Mr. Birch) :

“DEAREST BERTIE,—Thank you very much for your kind letter that I received lately. This evening Miss Hildyard has sent for Mackai\* to play a reel for us on the bagpipe in our gallery, and we will send for you if he can come at a quarter past six o’clock. We saw the little donkey this afternoon ; he had a run and a roll in the riding-school, and Jones took a large whip and made a noise with it, so that the little creature ran round faster than ever, and kicked up his little heels in the air with delight in the most laughable manner. I am afraid I cannot write a very long letter now, as I must continue my lessons, so good-bye, dear Bertie, and believe me for ever,

“Your most affectionate sister,

“VICTORIA.

“February 18, 1851.”

The old saw about “all work and no play” had evidently no place in the educational programme of the Queen and Prince Consort. An interchange of correspondence between the young Princes and Princesses was doubtless encouraged as an agreeable form of writing-lessons. The Court removes to London for the season, and on the morning of Tuesday, April 8, the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Princess Helena, paid a visit to the studio of Sir Edwin Landseer, in St. John’s Wood, and in the evening of that day the Prince of Wales for the first time accompanied his parents to the performance of

\* Mackay.

## A Memorable May Day

“Masaniello,” at the Italian Opera. On that occasion Sir Michael Costa conducted, and the principal parts were taken by Madame Castellan, Herr Formes and Tamberlik.

We now come to the eventful first of May on which day the great Exhibition was opened. This ceremony has been very often described, and it still lives in the inimitable drawings of George Cruikshank. The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, arrived at 10 minutes to 12. The Queen wore a dress of pink satin, brocaded in gold; Prince Albert was attired in a Field Marshal's uniform; the Prince of Wales was in Highland costume, and the Princess Royal was attired in a dress of white lace, with a wreath of flowers around her head. We are assured that the whole party, especially the young Prince of Wales, appeared to be struck and delighted with the stately grandeur of the scene which burst upon their view. In the procession which followed, the Queen led the Prince of Wales, and Prince Albert the Princess Royal. They were followed by the Prince of Prussia and the Duchess of Kent. A Chinese Mandarin, who figured amongst the foreign ambassadors and ministers, swayed so much from side to side, that it was necessary to leave him a wide berth for his onward progress.\* Far more interesting and suggestive of reminiscences was the bent form of the Duke of Wellington, leaning on the arm of his old comrade in arms, Lord Anglesey, linking, as it were, the peaceful professions

\* The “distinguished foreigner” in question was neither an Ambassador nor a Mandarin, but the captain of a Chinese junk, placed for the nonce in the ranks of the Corps Diplomatique with a view of assisting the *mise-en-scène*, and adding to the picturesqueness of the grouping.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

of 1851 with the warlike traditions of 1815. It is thus that Queen Victoria recorded her own impressions of a pageant which she always regarded as second only in splendour to that of the Coronation: "The great event has taken place. A complete and beautiful triumph, and a glorious and touching sight; one which I shall ever be proud of for my beloved Albert and my country. Yes, it is a day which makes my heart swell with pride and glory and thankfulness. We began it with the tenderest greetings for the birthday of our dear little Arthur. At breakfast there was nothing but congratulations. Mamma and Victor were there, and all the children and our guests. Our humble gifts of toys were added to by a beautiful little bronze replica of the Amazon statue at Berlin from the Prince of Prussia, a beautiful paper-knife from the Princess, and a nice little clock from mamma.

"The Park presented a wonderful spectacle—crowds streaming through it, carriages and troops passing, quite like the Coronation Day. And for me the same anxiety—no, much greater anxiety, on account of my beloved Albert.

"The day was bright, and all bustle and excitement. At half-past eleven the whole procession in State carriages was in motion. The Green Park and Hyde Park were one densely crowded mass of human beings, in the highest good-humour and most enthusiastic. I never saw Hyde Park look as it did—people as far as the eye could reach.

"A little rain fell just as we started, but before we came near the Crystal Palace the sun shone and gleamed upon the gigantic edifice, upon which the flags of all the nations were floating. We drove up Rotten Row, and got out at the entrance on

## Opening the Great Exhibition

that side. The glimpse of the transept through the iron gates, the waving palms, the flowers, statues, myriads of people filling the galleries and seats around, and the flourish of trumpets as we entered, gave us a sensation which I can never forget, and I felt much moved. We went for a moment to a little side room, where we left our shawls, and where we found mamma and Mary [Duchess of Teck], and outside which were standing the other Princes.

“In a few seconds we proceeded, Albert leading me, having Vicky at his hand, and Bertie holding mine. The sight as we came to the middle, where the steps and chair, which I did not sit on, were placed, and the beautiful crystal fountain just in front of it, was magical—so vast, so glorious, so touching. One felt, as so many did whom I have since spoken to, filled with devotion, more so than by any service I have ever heard.

“The tremendous cheers, the joy expressed in every face, the immensity of the building, the mixture of palms, flowers, trees, statues, fountains; the organs, with two hundred instruments and six hundred voices, which sounded like nothing, and my beloved husband, the author of this peace festival which united the industry of all the nations of the earth—all this was moving indeed, and it was, and is, a day to live for ever. God bless my dearest Albert! God bless my dearest country, which has shown itself so great to-day! One felt so grateful to the great God, who seemed to pervade all and to bless all.

“The only event it in the slightest degree reminded me of was the Coronation; but this day's festival was a thousand times superior—in fact, it is unique. The enthusiasm and cheering, too,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

were much more touching, for in a church naturally all is silent.

“There must have been nearer a million than any other number of people who turned out to post themselves as they could to see some parts of the show, and Mayne, the head of the police, said he thought there were about thirty-four thousand in the glass building.

“The Queen, her husband, her eldest son and daughter gave themselves in full confidence to this multitude, with no other guard than one of honour and the accustomed supply of stick-handed constables to assist the crowd in keeping order among themselves. Of course there were in reserve, at proper stations, ample means of repressing any disorder if any had been attempted; but nothing was brought out and shown beyond what I have mentioned, and it was impossible for the invited guests of a lady’s Drawing-room to have conducted themselves with more perfect propriety than did this sea of human beings.

“The Royal party were received with continued acclamation as they passed through the Park and round the Exhibition house, and it was also very interesting to witness the cordial greeting given to the Duke of Wellington. I was just behind him and Anglesey, during the procession round the building, and he was accompanied by an incessant running fire of applause from the men, and waving of handkerchiefs and kissing of hands from the women, who lined the pathway of the march during the three-quarters of an hour that it took us to march round. The building itself is far more worth seeing than anything in it. How many of its contents are worth admiration?”

Only a fortnight before (April 15, 1851), Prince

## The Iron Duke and his Godson

Albert had thus written to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg :

“Just at present I am more dead than alive with overwork. The opponents of the Exhibition work with might and main to throw all the old women into panic, and to drive myself crazy. The strangers, they give out, are certain to commence a thorough revolution here, to murder Victoria and myself, and to proclaim the Red Republic in England; the plague is certain to ensue from the confluence of such vast multitudes, and to swallow up those whom the increased price of everything has not already swept away. For all this I am to be responsible, and against all this I have to make efficient provision.”

The May Day of 1851 ended as happily and auspiciously as it began. In the afternoon the victor of Waterloo (whose first commission bore the date of March 7, 1787, and who had won his spurs at Boxtel in September 1794) paid a visit to his godson, the future Inspector-General of His Majesty's Forces of 1906. “I must not omit to mention,” writes the Queen, “an interesting episode of this day, viz., the visit of the good old Duke on this his eighty-second birthday, to his little godson, our dear little boy. He came to us both at five, and gave him a golden cup and some toys, which he had himself chosen, and Arthur gave him a nosegay.”

Her Majesty was deeply moved by Thackeray's May Day Ode, in which the great satirist, not always a supple courtier, and never a flatterer of Royalty, had said of her :

“Behold her in her Royal place;  
A gentle lady—and the hand  
That sways the sceptre of the land,  
How frail and weak !

# The Boyhood of a Great King

Soft is the voice, and fair the face ;  
She breathes Amen to prayer and hymn,—  
No wonder that her eyes are dim  
And pale her cheek."

Of the many letters of congratulation which now reached the Queen, that from Lady Lyttelton gave her special pleasure. She had already been succeeded as governess by Lady Caroline Barrington,\* a sister of Earl Grey, who Sir Theodore Martin says, "continued in office until her death in February, 1875, endeared to the Queen and the Royal children not less by her truly kind heart than by the strong sense and independence of character, which distinguishes the family to which she belongs."

In "Mr. Punch" the Palace of Crystal found a friendly and amusing critic. A certain Mr. Malony was first made to give an account of

"This Palace tall,  
This Crystal Hall,  
Which Emperors might covet,  
Stands in High Park  
Like Noah's Ark,  
A rainbow bint above it.

"'Tis here that roams, as well becomes  
Her dignitee and stations,  
Victoria great, and houlds in State  
'The Congress of the Nations ;"

while in "The May Queen," the Sovereign was pictured as singing :

"Little Albert shall go with thee—  
'Tis well he should be seen ;  
And you'll take care and bow  
Dear, when they cry God Save The Queen,  
When I can't bow to them myself,  
Any longer, that's to say ;  
For I am the Queen, and it's May, my dear ;  
I am the Queen and it's May."

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\* "Life of the Prince Consort," vol. ii. p. 370.



## Victoria Felix

The flattering account of the inaugural ceremony was adorned with a vignette of the Iron Duke saying to his brother veteran, "Anglesey lean on me," while nothing could possibly have been more gratifying than the verses "Victoria Felix," or the three cartoons, the best of which was John Leech's "Great Derby Race of 1851"—*Punch*, Prince Albert, Sir Joseph Paxton, and John Bull leading—the rest nowhere.

In the course of the summer (one of the busiest and happiest of the Queen's long and eventful reign) frequent visits were paid to the now universally popular "World's Fair" in Hyde Park. In the second week of June the Prince of Wales, attended by Mr. Birch, and the Princess Royal and Princess Helena, accompanied by Miss Hildyard, went there for the purpose of inspecting the vertical printing machine constructed for the *Illustrated London News*, which had been already visited by their parents. During the season the Queen and Prince Albert went to see Rachel in "Andromaque,"\* and also attended the performance at Devonshire House, of Sir E. L. Bulwer's "Not so Bad as we Seem," by Dickens, Jerrold, Foster, and other promoters of the Guild of Literature and Art.

In the first days of July, Prince Albert became the guest of Sir William Middleton at Shrublands, for the meeting of the British Association at Ipswich. On July 4 he thus wrote to the Queen at Osborne: "Hearty thanks for your dear kind letter. *Thank the children also for theirs, and tell Bertie his letter was very well written.* Now farewell."

On the following day the King of the Belgians arrived in the Isle of Wight, accompanied by his

\* Queen Victoria admired Rachel as an actress quite as much as she did Jenny Lind as a singer.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

wife, Queen Louise, and his three children—the Duke of Brabant (now King of the Belgians), the Count of Flanders (who died a few months ago), and the Princess Charlotte, destined to become afterwards the Empress of Mexico, then a handsome girl of eleven.\* It was in the course of this month that Mr. Birch again made known to the Queen his intention of resigning his post as tutor to the Prince of Wales.† He had seemingly manifested an intention to retire in the spring of 1850, for an unknown and hitherto unpublished letter addressed by Lord Beaconsfield to his sister—dated “House of Commons, May 3, 1850”—contains the passage :

“Tuesday was not a bad division and according to my friends my best speech this year, though meagrely and coldly reported in *The Times*. Yesterday the government received another apoplectic stroke. They are drifting, but I suppose and perhaps hope they may escape the breakers this year. Did I tell you that Prince Albert wanted Mr. Birch not to teach the Prince of Wales his catechism, and that Birch resigned, but resumed on condition of catechism, but I think I told you all this ? Whether it be Lutheranism, Pantheism or Bunsenism that Albert professes is not yet known.” Lord Beaconsfield’s criticism, it may be pointed out, in no way agrees with the published letters of both the Queen and Prince Albert on the subject of their views as to the religious training of the Heir to the Throne. On the recommendation of Sir James Stephen, Mr. Frederick W. Gibbs, M.A., was selected to succeed Mr. Birch, but, as he undertook to go through certain preliminary studies in Edinburgh at Prince Albert’s suggestion, the departure of Mr. Birch was postponed for a time.

\* See *ante*, p. 12.

† See *post*, p. 281.

## Once More at Balmoral

Nearly the whole of August was spent at Osborne, where on Monday, the 18th, three Chinese ladies, accompanied by a Chinese gentleman, dressed in the costume of their country, arrived from London, and were introduced to the Queen and Prince Albert. In the afternoon the Queen and Prince, with the youthful Princesses, embarked on board the *Fairy*, and proceeded to the Needles to view the regatta of the Royal Yacht Squadron. At this time the Prince of Wales presented Inspector O'Brien of the London Police with a gold watch as a mark of appreciation of the attention shown him during his visits to the Exhibition. The usual rural *fête* took place in honour of Prince Albert's birthday, and at the end of the month (August 28) a start was once more made for Balmoral, three superb saloon carriages, built by the Great Northern Railway, being used for the first time. One of these was designed for the special accommodation of the Prince of Wales. The weather at Balmoral was unusually fine, and the Prince of Wales constantly accompanied his father deer-stalking. The Gathering of Clans for the Highland Games took place at Braemar Castle on Friday, September 12, and amongst the guests welcomed by the Queen to the Castle were Hallam and Liebig. On Tuesday, October 7, the Royal Family set out on their journey southwards, several semi-state visits having been arranged to take place *en route*. On Thursday, the 9th, the Queen writes in her Journal: "To our despair a wet morning and hopelessly so! At ten o'clock we started in close carriages, Vicky and Bertie with us, the two others in the next carriage." Brief halts were made at Edinburgh, Carlisle, Lancaster (from which Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. derive the title used when travelling

## The Boyhood of a Great King

incognito) and Liverpool. Between visits to Croxteth and Worsley Halls, came an excursion on the Bridgewater Canal. From Manchester the Queen returned to Windsor Castle.

On October 15, 1851, the Great Exhibition which had been visited by millions, was closed, and within ten days of the final shutting of the doors of the Temple of Peace, rumours of half a dozen possible revolutions were rife; a "leading journal" announcing boldly, the unpleasant fact that "the causes of discontent in Europe are so many, the rottenness of such Governments as Austria, Prussia, Rome and Naples is so great, and the train of powder which is laid is so heavy, that a spark less potent than that which France might apply at any time would be more than sufficient to cause an explosion."

Before a month was over, the presence of Kossuth gave England and London a taste of the dangerous electricity with which the diplomatic atmosphere of Europe was then charged. Queen Victoria, however, might find some consolation in the fact that one of the leading statesman of the day had pronounced Prince Albert to be a far greater and more extraordinary man than Louis Napoleon, then meditating the dissolution of the National Assembly which was to take place a month hence, as a first step to the foundation of the Second Empire. The once unfriendly critic of the husband of the Queen had written, "In regard to the possession of the soundest judgment, the highest intellect and the most exalted qualities of mind, he is far superior to the Emperor."\*

The tenth birthday of the Prince of Wales fell

\* Sir Theodore Martin. "Life of the Prince Consort," vol. ii., p. 429.

## A Royal Copy-book

on a Sunday, and on that day the Queen gave a dinner-party in the evening, Mr. Henry Birch, his tutor, being one of the guests. On Monday, the Prince and his brothers and sisters, were present with the Queen and Prince Albert at the firing of the usual *feu de joie* in the Home Park.

A fortnight later died Ernest, King of Hanover, the last survivor of the Queen's uncles, who had been born in 1771. He had lived to see no less than eight cradles come between him and the crown he coveted. Marshal Soult also passed away, while France stood on the threshold of the *Coup d'État*. The Court came up from Osborne [December 20] for the usual Christmas junketings at Windsor. The following exercise by the Prince of Wales was written at Osborne just three days previously :

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*Nothing more clearly shows the value we attach  
to our attainments, than the continued efforts we make  
to maintain them, and improve them.*—————

————— *Albert, Edward. 17<sup>th</sup> December 1853*

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On Monday, December 22, the Queen's Christmas Bounty was distributed in Middle Scotland Yard. The average age of the four hundred chosen recipients was eighty-two, fifty out of them being over ninety, and three fully fledged centenarians.

The loss of Mr. Birch, to whom the ten-year-old Prince of Wales was sincerely attached, was for a time keenly felt by his pupil. Writing this year from Windsor Castle, Lady Canning, speaking of Mr. Birch's departure, says :

## The Boyhood of a Great King

“It has been a trouble and sorrow to the Prince of Wales, who has done no end of touching things since he heard that he was to lose him, three weeks ago. He is such an affectionate dear little fellow ; his notes and presents which Mr. Birch used to find on his pillow were really too moving.”

On the evening of January 16, 1852, the second of the customary Windsor theatrical performances took place, the Prince of Wales being amongst the audience. On this occasion, Mr. Planché's comedy of “Not a Bad Judge,” and the farce entitled, “The Lottery Ticket,” were represented by the actors of the Lyceum and Haymarket Theatres, under the direction of Mr. Charles Kean. On Monday, February 2, the Queen and Prince Albert came to London for the opening of Parliament, but returned to Windsor the following day. On the Friday of that week, “King John” was played in the Rubens Room. Never had such care been bestowed on the mounting of Shakespeare's great historical play, and its success eclipsed all former Windsor records. Mr. Charles Kean's performance of the part of King John was pronounced to be magnificent. The parts of Constance, Prince Arthur and Falconbridge were taken by Mrs. Kean, Miss Kate Terry, and Mr. Wigan. In April the Court is again in residence for the season at Buckingham Palace, and on Monday, the 24th of that month, the Queen and Prince Albert, with all the elder Royal children, went to the Gallery of Illustration in Regent Street, where they viewed the new diorama illustrating the campaigns of the Duke of Wellington. The Queen determined to spend her birthday in “retirement” at Osborne, and on that day, at an early hour, the band of the Royal Marines



KING EDWARD VII. AT THE AGE OF 11  
(1852)





## Ascot in 1852

attended and performed a matinale in honour of Her Majesty's birthday. The Duke of Cambridge paid a visit to the Queen on the same afternoon. A company of Tyrolese singers arrived from London, and had the honour of singing before the Queen and the Royal Family both in the morning and afternoon. The Duchess of Kent was also at Osborne.

The Court arrived at Windsor from Buckingham Palace on Monday, June 7, and on Tuesday, the 8th, the Queen attended Ascot Races. The first carriage in the Royal procession of six open landaus-and-four, and two open pony carriages-and-four conveyed the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier. On Thursday, June 23, the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and Princess Alice, visited Westminster Hall, and afterwards inspected the new palace at Westminster. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice were present at the performance of the Royal Italian Opera, when Meyerbeer's "Huguenots" was played for the sixth time. A week later, the Princess Gaucromma, daughter of the ex-Rajah of Coorg, was baptized in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace, the Queen being the principal sponsor. Amongst those present were Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred and the Princess Alice. On Thursday, July 1, the Queen went in state to close Parliament.

July is spent almost entirely at Osborne, where Mr. Gibbs's lessons were gently tempered by frequent excursions. On Thursday, the 8th, the Queen and Prince Consort, accompanied by the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Prince of Wales, and Prince Albert, went for a cruise on board the *Fairy*. Two days later Prince Albert, taking the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred with him, inspected the breakwater at Portland, then in course of construction.\* About this time the Court Newsmen announces that on Wednesday, July 14, "the Duchess of Gloucester honoured Mrs. Hicks with her company in the evening. Mrs. Hicks is the only surviving granddaughter of Lady Charlotte Finch, who was governess to the fifteen children of George III. The Duchess of Gloucester was at that time the sole survivor of these children."† The third cruise is a somewhat longer one. Torquay, Dartmouth, and other places on the south coast were visited and a day and a half spent in the enjoyment of the beauties of Mount Edgcumbe, and the coast and river scenery near Plymouth. The orange-trees and

\* The *Dorset County Chronicle* of July 15, 1852, gives the following account of the visit to Portland: "On Saturday morning last the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and the Prince Alfred, attended by the Hon. Colonel Gordon, Mr. Gibbs, and Captain Crispin, R.N., embarked on board the royal steamship *Albert*, at Osborne Pier, at a quarter past eight o'clock, and proceeded to Portland Isle for the purposes of inspecting the Breakwater, now in course of construction there. The Royal party arrived at Portland at half-past twelve, and in the presence of Mr. Rendel, the Engineer-in-Chief, they were received by Mr. Code, the residing Engineer, who conducted them over the breakwater stage, and explained the principal engineering operations involved in carrying on the works, which they examined with much interest. The Prince expressed himself highly gratified with the progress made since the first stone was deposited by his Royal Highness in 1849. After examining some of the large piles with the screws attached, and prepared for setting in place, the Royal party left for Osborne about 2 o'clock, amidst the hearty cheers of the assembled workmen, and landed at the pier at a  $\frac{1}{4}$  after 6 P.M."

† In the midst of the upbringing of the children of Queen Victoria occurs this interesting reminiscence of the early days of the much more numerous family of her grandfather, George III.

## A Visit to Belgium

limes at Osborne are now in full bloom, and Prince Albert writes to the Dowager Duchess of Saxe-Coburg: "Our little ones prosper. We took four of them to sea last week on a little cruise to the south-west coast." A visit to Belgium had been for some time in contemplation, and on Monday evening, August 9, the weather having moderated, the Queen, with Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, embarked on the Royal yacht off Osborne, Lord Adolphus FitzClarence being, as usual, in command of the *Victoria and Albert*. Prince Albert went on shore at Walmer Castle, and paid a brief visit to the Duke of Wellington, after which the ships of the royal squadron weighed anchor and proceeded in the direction of Antwerp, where the Royal party landed on Wednesday, August 11, at 8 o'clock, and were welcomed by King Leopold. On Thursday morning the whole of the royal party proceeded to the Belgian Royal Palace at Laeken. The Prince of Wales was attended by his tutor, Mr. Gibbs. King Leopold was accompanied by his three children, the Duke of Brabant, the Count of Flanders, and the Princess Charlotte. The weather being very bad, the return journey was considerably retarded, and the *Victoria and Albert* did not reach Osborne until Tuesday, the 17th. On the following day (August 18) the Queen wrote to the King of the Belgians: "Let me express to you my very warmest and most affectionate thanks for all your very great kindness to us all, and to the children, who intend to write to you themselves."

The Queen and Prince Albert gave their annual *fête* in honour of the Prince's birthday (August 25), to the labourers and workpeople employed on the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

estate, and their wives. Amongst the guests were the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, who remained to witness the rural sports, and also some tableaux organised by the Prince of Wales, and his brothers and sisters. On August 29, the Queen again wrote to the King of the Belgians :

“ I cannot sufficiently thank you for the extreme kindness and affection of your two letters of the 25th and 26th with the enclosure for my dear Albert’s birthday. I know well, dearest uncle, that I and the nation are in a great measure indebted to you for the immense blessing of having such a dear and admirable being as my husband. . . . He has indeed exceeded every expectation. . . . With the greatest modesty, gentleness, and sweetness, with the absence of any shade of selfishness, he possesses a powerfully creative mind with every requisite for our difficult times. . . . We spent the dear day very happily, and he seemed much pleased with all we tried to do, to do him honour and give him pleasure. The children exerted themselves very much to please their dear papa, and in the afternoon six of them represented some *tableaux vivants* very successfully.”

On Monday, August 30, the Queen, Prince Albert, and their elder children left for Balmoral, travelling by way of Derby and Edinburgh. During the time they spent in the Scotch capital they occupied the State apartments at Holyrood Palace, from whence shortly after their arrival, Prince Albert and his two elder sons started for a drive through the town. On Wednesday, September 1, the Royal party once more started for the North. On Wednesday, the 8th, the Queen drove to Gairn Shiel. On Thursday, the 9th, the Queen, with



QUEEN VICTORIA, PRINCE ALBERT, AND THE PRINCE OF WALES AT BALMORAL.

*From a contemporary Baxter print, etc. 1842*



## Death of the Duke of Wellington

Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and Prince Alfred, drove to Castletown to be present at the annual gathering of Highlanders at Deeside. There was a deer drive on the 10th, and in the evening the Queen and Prince Albert went to a "Balla Dannaadh Na Leus," given at Carrie Milzie Cottage by Lady Agnes Duff. On Sunday, the 12th, they were present at Divine Service in Crathie Church, and on Monday, the 13th, Prince Albert went out deer-stalking, while in the afternoon the Queen and Prince Albert were present at a ball at Abergeldie, given by the Duchess of Kent to the tenants and servants of the estate. On Tuesday, the 14th, the Queen and Prince Albert went to Ballochbuie, and on the following day they received, by special messenger, the melancholy intelligence of the death of the Duke of Wellington at Walmer, which had been transmitted to Edinburgh by electric telegraph. On the eve of once more going South (October 11, 1852), the Queen laid the first stone of the cairn on the summit of Craig Gowan, and Prince Albert, the second. All their children did the same in order of seniority, and their example was followed by all the bystanders. Then the piper played, and the whisky circulated briskly. The process of building continued for an hour, during which many merry reels were danced to the "piper's tune." On the following day (October 12) the Queen and the whole of the Royal Family quitted Balmoral, and proceeded to Edinburgh on their way to North Wales. Addresses were presented to the Queen both at Preston and Chester,\* from which city they travelled to Bangor. On Thursday,

\* The Mayor of Chester who presented the address was Mr. P. S. Humberston, for some time M.P. for his city.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Queen in the state carriage was drawn through the tube of the Britannia bridge by a number of men ; Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales walking over the bridge with Mr. Stephenson, the engineer. After this the journey south was resumed with but one stoppage, and that for the purpose of receiving an address under the walls of Conway Castle. The rest of the journey to Windsor was completed by the Great Western Railway. On October 23\* it is announced " that the Presidential chrysalis has assumed the last and perfect form, and that which was once a grub now soars on wings of Imperial purple. M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte has been hailed by his subjects by the style and title of Napoleon III. Although not anointed, nor robed, nor crowned, he is to all intents and purposes a real Emperor."

On Wednesday, November 10, the Queen and Prince Albert arrived at Buckingham Palace, and on the following day Parliament was opened.

On Wednesday, the 17th, the Queen and Prince Albert again came to London, accompanied by the Duke of Brabant, the Count of Flanders, and the Princess Charlotte of Belgium, who viewed the funeral procession of the Duke of Wellington, first from the windows of Buckingham Palace, and then from those of St. James's Palace. With the Queen were the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Alice, as well as the Princes and Princesses of the Belgian Royal Family.

The customary Christmas festivities took place on a somewhat smaller scale than usual at Windsor. The *Illustrated London News* published a large folding plate of the seven elder children of the Queen.

\* The Second Empire was officially proclaimed on December 2, the first anniversary of the *Coup d'Etat*.



## More Windsor Theatricals

Prince Alfred is depicted as riding on a pony, and the Princess Royal and her brother, the Prince of Wales, the latter in Highland costume, occupy the centre of the picture. In the poem which accompanies it, one verse runs thus :

“ Green branches of our Kingly race,  
We love you with a selfish joy ;  
In each young life and blooming face  
Of blushing girl and boy  
We find a pledge and warrant sure  
That all these blessings shall endure.”

The New Year's Day of 1853 was celebrated at Windsor by a grand musical entertainment, given for the first time in St. George's Hall. Several leading residents in Windsor and the neighbourhood were invited to be present, and the orchestra of one hundred performers was conducted by Mr. Anderson, director of Her Majesty's private band. On Friday, January 28, the farce of “ Paul Pry,” and “ The Lucky Friday,” were performed as usual in the Rubens Room, Mr. Wright and Mr. Wigan respectively representing the heroes of the entertaining pieces. On February 4, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean had the honour of appearing before Her Majesty in “ Macbeth,” and it was at once rumoured that a costly revival of the play is contemplated at the Princess's Theatre. The Prince of Wales was present on both occasions. The Court removes somewhat early to Buckingham Palace, and on February 28, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, attended by Mr. Gibbs and the Hon. and Rev. Gerald Wellesley, visited Apsley House, to see the collection of memorials of the late Duke of Wellington.

On Wednesday, March 2, the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Princess Royal and Prince Alfred, went to the Princess's Theatre to witness the performance of "Macbeth," followed by the farce "An Unfortunate Propensity."

It is now announced "that arrangements have been entered into for the building of a new Mansion House for Her Majesty and Prince Albert at Balmoral, and that the work will be proceeded with as soon as the weather permits." On Saturday, March 5, the Prince of Wales and the whole of his brothers and sisters paid a visit to the Duchess of Kent at Clarence House, where the Tyrolese minstrels attended and gave a concert for the gratification of the "Royal circle." On Thursday evening, the 10th, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred and the Princess Alice were again at the Princess's Theatre with their parents. On this occasion "The Corsican Brothers," "Charles II," and "A Roland for an Oliver," were played.

On the Monday following, Prince Albert took the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred over the various departments of the Bank of England, under the auspices of the Chairman of the Board of Directors. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert went to the Haymarket Theatre to witness "The Retirement of Mr. Benjamin Webster." The Court removed to Windsor on the afternoon of the 19th March. Scarcely had the Royal party arrived there than a fire of a most alarming description broke out in the immediate vicinity of the apartments occupied by the Queen and Prince Consort. It was got under with great difficulty, but not until much damage had been done. Curiously enough the tower in which the fire originated was known as the Prince of Wales's Tower, and one of the apartments most

## Birth and Baptism of Prince Leopold

seriously injured was the beautiful Gothic dining-room very often used by the Royal Family.

At the end of the month [March 30] the Court once more goes into residence at Buckingham Palace, and a week later it is recorded in the journalese of the period that "The interesting event which had been looked forward to with national anxiety for some weeks past, took place on April 7, when at a quarter after one in the afternoon, the Queen was safely delivered of a Prince. Mrs. Lilly was for the eighth time in attendance on Her Majesty. Most of the Great Officers of State were present, although the birth of Prince Leopold could scarcely have been expected as the Queen drove out on the previous day in an open landau, and had given a dinner-party afterwards at which Lord John Russell was present. The bulletin is signed by James Clarke, Charles Locock, and Robert Fergusson." On Tuesday, April 19, the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, and attended by Lieut.-Col. F. Seymour, and Mr. Gibbs, went to the Royal Mint, of which they visited every department. It was decided that the newly born Prince should receive the names of Leopold George Duncan Albert, the new King of Hanover, the Princess of Prussia, Princess Mary of Cambridge, and the Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg being his sponsors. On Monday April 25, a birthday visit was paid to the Duchess of Gloucester by the Prince of Wales and his brothers and sisters, and in the evening they accompanied their father to see "Macbeth," for a second time at the Princess's Theatre. On May 28, the ceremony of Churching the Queen was performed in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace, and at noon the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Prince of Wales,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, Princess Alice, and Princess Helena, paid the usual official visit to the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, to which they were welcomed by the President, Sir Charles Eastlake.

Early in June the Queen goes to Windsor, and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, went to Eton College to be present at the delivery of the annual speeches. On Thursday, the 9th, the Prince of Wales again occupied a place in the first carriage of the procession to Ascot, Prince Alfred and the Princess Alice being in the second carriage. The Court soon returned to Buckingham Palace, and on June 18 (Waterloo Day) Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred, went to Southwark for the purpose of inspecting the brewery of Messrs. Barclay and Perkins, where a few years before, the Austrian Marshal Haynau had received a well-merited castigation at the hands of the draymen, a circumstance which prevented the Court of Vienna being represented at the Duke of Wellington's funeral. The christening of Prince Leopold took place at Buckingham Palace on June 28, the fifteenth anniversary of the Coronation. In the course of that day the Prince of Wales was attacked with measles, and was confined to his room for nearly a week. The Queen was unremitting in her attendance, and with a kind precaution absented herself from all assemblies where a chance of contagion to other children might arise. One by one the malady attacked all the children, with the exception of the two youngest, and finally the Queen herself took it. The Crown Prince of Hanover and the Duke and Duchess of Coburg also fell ill, and the



THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
AS SAILOR BOYS

*From a rare lithograph in the collection of Commander  
C. N. Robinson, R.N., etc., 1853*



## Midgets and Measles

infection was likewise transmitted to the Duke of Brabant and Count of Flanders. Under these painful circumstances the Heir Apparent was unable to enjoy the exhibition of the Aztecs brought to England from Central America, for he left London the same day for Windsor, as a change of air had been strongly recommended for him. It was not till July 23, that Queen Victoria herself fell ill at Osborne, but she soon recovered, and royal visits were paid to the camp at Chobham, Her Majesty being accompanied on the last occasion by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Alice. On August 10, Queen Victoria wrote to "Uncle" Leopold in Brussels: "We went thrice more to our dear camp, and had two interesting days there. It has been most successful, and the troops have been particularly well all the time. When I think that this camp, and all our large fleet, are without doubt the result of Albert's assiduous and unceasing representations to the late and present Governments, without which I fully believe very little would have been done, one may be proud and thankful; but, as usual, he is modest and he allows no praise."

On August 20, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred (both in sailor garb) were interested spectators of the great Naval Review at Spithead. The Russian War was already casting its shadow before. On Monday, August 29, the Queen left Osborne for Holyhead, the through train from Southampton being joined at Basingstoke by Earl Granville. At Tamworth an address was presented to the Queen. The passage from Holyhead to Kingston was a smooth one, and "Queen's weather" seemed to favour the Royal visit. Immediately the Queen appeared on deck the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Saint

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Germans, introduced various high functionaries to her. The Queen, who looked a little fatigued, and somewhat flushed, wore a muslin dress, white ground and printed flowers of pink and green, a pink silk visite, and a white bonnet with white feathers. After the introductions, however, the silk visite was changed for a white Indian embroidered shawl. The Prince was dressed in a black coat and white waistcoat with the ribbon and star of the Garter. "The young Princes," we are told, "were dressed simply and neatly, and seemed singularly amused." In the Exhibition building chairs of state were provided for each of the Princes. Before leaving Dublin, the Queen paid a visit to Mr. Dargan, who had himself defrayed the greater portion of the cost of the Exhibition, and who had modestly declined a baronetcy. The Prince of Wales is said to have been much pleased at the beautiful scenery of Mount Annville, the towers of which commanded a view of the whole of the Bay of Dublin and the Wicklow Hills.

The greater part of September and October, 1853, was spent at Balmoral, where the "pleasant retirement" of the Royal Family, as it was called, grew gradually to be less the subject of daily "report." The foundation-stone of the new Castle was "well and truly laid," as narrated in Her Majesty's Journal, and everybody was sorry when the time came to return to Windsor, where, on October 29, arrived the King of the Belgians, the Duke and Duchess of Brabant,\* the Count of

\* The Duchess of Brabant was then a bride, having only married the Duc de Brabant (now King Leopold II.) on August 22, 1853. Queen Marie Henriette, an amiable and accomplished woman, whose artistic tastes were in sympathy with those of Queen Victoria, died at Spa, on September 11, 1902.



## Birthday Festivities

Flanders, and the Princess Charlotte. On Thursday, November 10, "Henry V." was performed before Her Majesty, the characters being represented by the members of the Sadlers Wells company, assisted by Messrs. Bartley, Leigh Murray, Harley, Wilkinson and Cooper. On the previous day, the twelfth birthday of the Prince of Wales had been celebrated with the usual festivities, the Duchess of Kent, his grandmother, being the first to arrive at the Castle to offer her congratulations, and breakfast with the Queen. At ten o'clock the troops forming the Windsor Garrison paraded in the Home Park. The Queen was accompanied by Prince Albert, the Duke and Duchess of Brabant, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Royal and the younger branches of the Royal Family. As soon as they took up a position immediately under the East Terrace the line presented arms, fired a *feu de joie*, and gave three cheers for the Prince of Wales. The troops then marched past in slow and quick time, wheeling into line and again presenting arms, then again returning to their barracks. On the afternoon of the same day Captain Inglefield, R.N., had an audience with the Queen and Prince Albert and submitted to them his drawings connected with the Arctic Expedition.\*

On the Monday following, the Duke and Duchess of Brabant left Windsor for a tour in the West of England, returning thence on Thursday, the 17th,

\* The late Admiral Sir Edward Augustus Inglefield, K.C.B., the descendant of two distinguished sailors, whose son now worthily represents the naval traditions of the Inglefields and the Hallowells in the fourth generation. Admiral Inglefield was, and deservedly so, one of the most popular men of his day. He frequently exhibited at the Royal Academy, and was an intimate friend of the Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) of whose journey to Canada he painted several water-colours.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

on the evening of which day the second dramatic performance, which was the close of a series, took place. The pieces selected on this occasion were a comedy in three acts, by Mr. Slingsby Lawrence, entitled "A Game of Speculation," and a comic drama in one act by Mr. Charles Mathews, entitled "Little Toddlekins." The principal parts were filled by Messrs. C. Mathews, R. Roxby, J. F. Cathcart, F. Matthews, B. Baker and Suter, Mesdames Melfort and F. Matthews, Miss M. Oliver and Miss Ellis.

The Christmas festivities at Windsor were celebrated in the usual fashion. The exceedingly cold weather of the last week of the year gave Prince Albert and his two elder sons an excellent opportunity of indulging in skating on the sheet of water in the Home Park nearly every day. On Thursday, December 29, the Queen, as well as Lord and Lady John Russell, were amongst the numerous spectators who foregathered on the borders of the frozen lake.

## CHAPTER XII

ENGLAND AT WAR WITH RUSSIA—THE PRINCE OF WALES'S FIRST VISIT TO FRANCE—A DRIVE THROUGH PARIS BY THE SIDE OF NAPOLEON III—MEMORIES OF VERSAILLES AND ITS MAGNIFICENCE

1854-1855

THE nation had virtually declared itself for war before the advent of the New Year, and "Mr. Punch" voiced the prevailing popular sentiment admirably when he wrote :

" Fight—with determined fury fight !

We know that we are in the right,

For Freedom's holy sake we rise

And have the best of battle-cries—

Victoria !

Fight for the Queen—in the Queen's own name,

'Tis an omen of conquest, an earnest of fame,

On with it, brave men, through smoke and flame—

Victoria ! Victoria ! "

It was, however, reserved for another generation to add the words Jingo, Jingoism and Jingoism to the English language. For some little time longer there was nothing to disturb or interrupt the even tenour of domestic life and its innocent enjoyments at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. The first fortnight of January was characterised by almost Siberian weather, and the Royal sledges were once more requisitioned, although war was to be declared against the donor within ten short weeks. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Earl and Countess of Shelborne, drove out in a sledge, following the Queen, attended by Viscountess Jocelyn, in a similar vehicle. The younger members of the Royal Family used a third and more homely sledge made out of a carriage, and drawn by a pony. Four days later (January 19) Tobin's comedy of "The Honey-moon," and the topical farce of "The Camp at Chobham," provoked shouts of laughter on the part of the youthful Princes and Princesses, sitting at the foot of the daïs in the Rubens Room. After the opening of Parliament "The Tempest" was produced on the same stage with such an artistic setting as at that time only the combined efforts of Kean and Grieve could devise. Towards the end of February the Court finally removed to Buckingham Palace, where, on the last day of the month, the Heir Apparent, standing by his mother's side in the central balcony, was one of those who witnessed with beating heart the departure of the troops for the East. Even after the lapse of half a century, one can scarcely view without emotion *Punch's* exquisite cartoon—"Throwing the Old Shoe," in which the Queen is depicted holding the future Inspector-General of Forces in her arms, with the rest of her sons and daughters grouped around her. There is a clarion sound still in the verses :

"Thrice thirteen years have passed away since England sheathed the  
sword,  
And battle-scarred, war-wasted, gave God thanks for peace restored,  
With leisure for life's quiet tasks, and toils and aims and arts,  
In the hum of the world's workshops, and the press of the world's  
marts.

• • • • •

"Then take thy stand and lift thy hand, O England, calm and high,  
And look the great sun in the face that lights our own free sky ;

## War with Russia Declared

And breathe a prayer, head bowed and bare, for a blessing on the  
blade  
That never was drawn lightly, ne'er ignobly down was laid."

\* \* \* \* \*

During the afternoon of that never-to-be-forgotten day, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, and the Princesses Helena and Louise heartily enjoyed the diversions provided at Astley's Theatre. The pieces played were "the new, grand and romantic hypo-drama of 'The Woodman's Horse,' or 'The False Knight,' and the pantomime 'Billy Button's Journey to Brentford.'"

Only ten days later (March 10) the Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and Prince Alfred, journeyed to Spithead for the purpose of reviewing the Fleet.

France and England were now arming simultaneously. On March 28 war against Russia was formally declared with all the pomp and circumstance which only the venerable survivors of the Great War remembered. Military spectacles like that of February 28 now became frequent, and the Queen notes in her Journal that "The last battalion of the Guards and the Scottish Fusiliers embarked to-day. They passed through the courtyard here [Buckingham Palace] at seven o'clock this morning. We stood on the balcony to see them. The morning was fine, the sun was shining over the tower at Westminster Abbey, and an immense crowd collected to see the fine men, and cheered them immensely. It was with difficulty they marched along. They formed up, presented arms, and then cheered us very heartily, and went off cheering. Many sorrowing friends were there, and one saw

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the shaking of many a hand. My best wishes and prayers be with them all."

Never did Prince Albert give more striking proof of the possession of a cool head and a sound judgment than at this critical juncture, but a cloud of mistrust and suspicion seemed to darken men's minds, and once more he became unpopular. In the result he again triumphed, but Queen Victoria was almost in despair when she wrote to the ever-faithful Stockmar: "That you should be absent when we are tried in the basest and most disgraceful manner, and when the Prince is being badgered for weeks by the ultras of both parties, is very unfortunate."

On May Day a juvenile ball took place at Buckingham Palace, in celebration of the birthday of Prince Arthur. The invitations numbered two hundred and sixty. At a quarter to nine o'clock the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, the Duchess of Kent, and the Duchess and Princess Mary of Cambridge, entered the Throne room, which was arranged for dancing, and immediately commenced with a quadrille. The Royal Princesses wore dresses of white tulle over white silk trimmed with apple blossom and wreaths of the same. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred wore Highland dresses. The Lords Ronald\* and Albert Leveson Gower,† sons of the

\* Lord Ronald Gower, born August 2, 1845, and well known as an artist, author and critic. A Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery. Alive in 1906.

† Born November 21, 1843; died, December 23, 1874. Albert Leveson-Gower was two years the senior of his younger brother Lord Ronald. He died at the age of thirty-one, two years after



KING EDWARD VII. AS A SAILOR. 1854





## A Birthday Juvenile Ball

Duke and Duchess of Sutherland; the Marquess of Douglas, son of the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton;\* the Marquess of Lorne,† and the Lords Walter‡ and Archibald Campbell§, sons of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, and other youthful scions of the Scottish aristocracy wore Highland costume. Her Majesty's private band provided the music, and supper was served in the State dining-room. The Queen (despite all her cares and anxieties) wrote a cheerful letter to the Premier (Lord Aberdeen) "commanding" his presence to see "a number of happy little people, including some of his grand-children, enjoying themselves." One of the Gordon grand-children of 1854 ultimately succeeded to the title, but perished at sea while serving as a common sailor, while his brother was killed at Cambridge by the bursting of a gun.

It was about this time that Prince Alfred, now in his tenth year, wrote the exercise, reproduced on the next page, from the autograph collection frequently referred to.

On Saturday, May 13, the *Royal Albert* was launched from the Woolwich dockyard in the presence of the Queen, the Princess Royal and Prince Alfred. The bottle of wine used by the Queen for the baptism of the ship was decorated with roses, shamrock, and thistles. Then came one of those fortnights of spring-time at Osborne,

his marriage to Miss Grace Abdy, sister of Sir F. Abdy. His only son, Mr. F. N. Leveson-Gower, was until the present year M.P. for Sutherland.

\* Afterwards twelfth Duke of Hamilton, born March 12, 1845, died May 16, 1895.

† Now Duke of Argyll. See *ante*, pp. 211 and 217.

‡ Born July 30, 1848; died May 2, 1889.

§ Born December 18, 1846. In 1906 heir presumptive to the Dukedom of Argyll,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

in which both the Queen and Prince Albert revelled. It was of this period\* that the Princess Christian, exactly thirty years later, wrote with so much tender feeling.

*Let innocence accompany every amusement*

*Let innocence accompanies every amusement*

*Let innocence accompany every amusement*

*Let innocence accompany every amusement..*

*Let innocence accompanes every amusement*

*Let innocence accompany every amusem*

*Let inoence accompany amusements L*

*Let innocence accompany every amusement*

*Alfred Alfred Buckingham Palace.*

\* "The Swiss cottage at Osborne, in like manner, with its museum, kitchen, store-room and little gardens, was made the means of learning how to do household work, and to direct the management of a small establishment. The parents were invited there as guests, to partake of the dishes which the Princesses themselves had prepared; and there, too, each child was allowed to choose its own occupation, and to enjoy perfect liberty. The life in the Highlands, free from the restraint of Court life, brought the Royal children into closer contact with the humbler classes, and called into play their sympathies for the poor. They were permitted to visit the humblest cottages—nay, were encouraged to do so. There it was, no doubt, that a feeling of pity for, and an ardent desire to help the poor, the sick, and the needy, were first aroused."

## Mimic Warfare

It was now that the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred commenced the construction of the miniature forts at Osborne, in which every feature was, as much as possible, the outcome of their own industry and handiwork.\* The Heir Apparent, as became a future Grand Master of Freemasons,† proved himself to be an expert bricklayer, and even the guns mounted for the defence of the mimic citadel were, if tradition may be trusted, cast *in situ*. After the keeping of the Queen's birthday with the usual festivities, the Court removed to London, where, on Wednesday, May 31, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal accompanied their parents to the French plays, when the dramatic idyl called "Au Printemps," by M. Leopold Laluyé, was produced. A few days later the Heir Apparent and his brother, Prince Alfred, went with Prince Albert, the King of Portugal, and the Duke of Oporto to Eton College for the purpose of hearing the speeches. On the following day Prince Albert took the Prince of Wales with him to inspect the new hotel at the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway.

June was a still busier month for the Prince of Wales. He was present at the solemn inauguration of the removed and reconstructed "Palace of Crystal," at Sydenham. On Thursday, June 29, the Prince of Wales accompanied Prince Albert to hear the speeches at Harrow. Both Lord John Russell and the Earl of Harrowby were there, and Lord Palmerston rode down according to almost immemorial custom. The Prince Consort and

\* See *ante*, p. 36.

† His Majesty King Edward VII. is now Protector of that Ancient and Honourable Confraternity.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Prince of Wales sat on the right hand of Dr. Vaughan, the head master. Amongst those who recited was Chaplin major (afterwards the Prince of Wales's contemporary at Oxford), now the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin. The clever rendering of Molière by Messrs. Earle and Ashley was warmly applauded, and several prizes were carried off by the clever son of the Earl of Shaftesbury.\*

About the middle of July the Queen and Prince Albert with all their children once more arrived at Osborne, for another only too brief period of much-needed rest. A cruise to the Channel Islands occupied two days (August 8 to 10), and Mr. Gibbs accompanied his pupils. A novel attraction was provided for Prince Albert's birthday *fête* (August 26) in the shape of the now celebrated Mont Blanc entertainment of Albert Smith, who four years later was to be the Prince of Wales's cicerone at Chamounix. A few days afterwards Prince Albert crosses to Boulogne to visit the French Emperor. *Punch* summarises the situation in a cartoon entitled the "Entente Cordiale," in which Napoleon and Prince Albert are seen pledging each other across the dinner-table, glass in hand. Quoth the former, "Well, now you have found your way here, we hope to see you oftener," to which the latter replies, "Oh yes! and the next time we have a holiday I hope our wives may be present." The three first verses of the three portions of a poem called "Three Epochs of Half a Century," are well worth remembering, although the title is a patent misnomer :

\* The Right Honourable Anthony Evelyn Melbourne Ashley, P.C., born 1836. The able biographer of Lord Palmerston now resides at Broadlands.



MORNING SERVICE AT OSBORNE HOUSE, ABOUT 1851



## L'Entente Cordiale

1. 1804.

“ I wonder what his thoughts were—that sallow, silent man—  
As athwart the lines of bayonets the dancing sunlight ran,  
Steeping in golden glory the white tents on the down,  
And the old gray Roman watch-tower that looms o’er Boulogne  
town ? ”

2. 1840.

“ I wonder what his thoughts were—that shabby, silent man—  
As thirty-six years later to shore a pinnacle ran,  
Bearing a homeless, penniless adventurer with his train  
A draggled pinioned Eagle and some cases of champagne ? ”

3. 1854.

“ I wonder what his thoughts were—that sad-eyed silent man—  
As alongside Boulogne’s jetty England’s royal steamer ran ;  
While with a King beside him, that adventurer was seen  
Greeting, as Emperor of France, the Consort of our Queen ? ”

A little later than in former years (September 14), the Royal Family set out from Buckingham Palace for Balmoral, where great progress had been made with the new buildings and other improvements. Within the week Her Majesty received the joyful news of the victory of the Alma (September 20). The annual tenants’ ball at Balmoral took place on October 5, the Prince of Wales being amongst those present. During the return journey to Windsor (October 12) several addresses were presented to the Queen. The battle of Balaklava was fought on the 25th of that month, and that of Inkerman on the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. A rumour was now current as to the future career of the Prince of Wales, and in dealing with it, *Punch* contrived gently to satirise the Manager of the Windsor Theatricals.

### “ THE PRINCE OF WALES A SAILOR

“ The young Prince, it is said, is about to enter the navy, and will take rank as lieutenant on board

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the line-of-battle ship the *Albert* christened after his Papa. His Royal Highness, it is said, is impatient to be afloat before Charles Kean's Tragedy at Windsor sets in with its usual severity. We do not vouch for the accuracy of the statement, but are bound to give it as one very current at the Clubs."

The gravity of the political situation necessitated a short special Parliamentary Session which was summoned for December 12, "under circumstances more critical and more momentous than any that had occurred since 1815." At a few minutes before two o'clock Her Majesty, Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales,\* attended by the Duke and Duchess of Wellington and Lady Churchill,† left Buckingham Palace for Westminster, in the State carriage, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses. The weather was unusually fine, and the Queen received a hearty greeting from the spectators. The Christmas festivities at Windsor were much curtailed, but all the Royal doles were duly distributed with the accustomed liberality.

The year 1855 opened gloomily. A frost of almost unprecedented severity set in, and the Royal sledges once more became an object of interest in Hyde Park. The apparently interminable siege

\* This is certainly the first record of the Prince of Wales's going to the House of Lords, but no mention is made of the place he occupied after his arrival there. Several of the biographers of King Edward VII. represent him as "occupying the chair-of-state *opposite* (*sic*) the throne" on the occasion of the presentation to the Queen of the addresses of both Houses in reply to the Sovereign's message announcing the declaration of war, on April 3, 1854. This ceremony, however, took place at Buckingham Palace, and not at Westminster.

† Lady Churchill only predeceased Queen Victoria, whose trusted friend she was, by a few weeks. Her son, Victor, Viscount Churchill (to whom the late Queen was sponsor), acted as Lord Chamberlain at the Coronation of King Edward.



## Death of the Tsar

of Sebastopol began to drag out its weary course, and Mr. (now Sir) W. H. Russell's trenchant exposure of the shortcomings of the Commissariat created a widespread excitement, the intensity of which is now very difficult to realise. The mortality prevalent in the Crimea had its pendant in the presence of much sickness at home. Before February was over Lord Palmerston had replaced Lord Aberdeen as Prime Minister. On March 2, the Tsar Nicholas, the prime mover of this great European convulsion, died, and *Punch* once more immortalised itself with the cartoon "General Février turned Traitor." An obituary notice of our departed foe commenced with the following strident phrases :

"The Tsar Nicholas is gone to his account. The disturber of nations is at rest. The absolute lord and master of sixty million human beings—the inheritor of the largest Empire on the Globe—a man whose will was law ; upon whose lips hung the issues of destiny ; who, but yesterday, convulsed Europe, and troubled Asia, and brought into collision the forces of barbarism and civilisation ; the scourge of the World ; the pest of humanity—the most selfish, the most cunning, the most majestic of despots, has been suddenly stricken down in the plenitude of his power and splendour."

The news from the front grew worse and worse. It was abundantly evident that some one had blundered, and blundered considerably. A week later (March 10) the Queen (Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales at her side as usual) sought to cheer and encourage her wounded and disabled Guards in the Great Hall of Buckingham Palace. Hardly in sympathy with this womanly kindness was

## The Boyhood of a Great King

*Punch's* cartoon, "Inspection of the Imbeciles of the Crimea," calling the attention of all and sundry to the criminal negligence (if nothing worse) denounced by the powerful correspondent of *The Times*. Meanwhile an Art Exhibition and Sale in aid of the Patriotic Fund had been organised in Pall Mall. During a short stay at Osborne, the five elder children of the Queen had not been idle, and their contribution to the good cause took the form of five sketches of more than average merit. Early in April the *Illustrated London News* in glowing language thus invites the notice of its readers to the subject: "We alluded last week to the contribution made by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and his brothers and sisters to the Patriotic Fund Exhibition of works of amateur artists, and we are this week able to engrave two characteristic examples of the series—one by the Prince of Wales, 'The Knight,' the other by Prince Alfred, 'The Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V.' Critics as well as courtiers see proof of merit in these drawings. They evince a taste for art worth cultivation. We see this, and more. We see a chivalric feeling in them which would warm the blood of Sir Philip Sidney or Lord Herbert Cherbury." A month later we are told that the Patriotic Fund Exhibition had been removed to Burlington House, where "the drawings of the Princess Royal, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family continue to be its staple attraction. The highest bid for the clever 'Battlefield' of the Princess Royal still continues to be £200, but there are hopes of a considerably higher bid before the day appointed for the sale." The sketches were finally sold, and it was announced that "at the sale of the drawings by the Royal children on May 14,



DRAWING EXECUTED BY KING EDWARD VII. ABOUT 1853

TWO YEARS BEFORE HIS SKETCH FOR THE PATRIOTIC FUND  
BAZAAR PETCHILD £55



## Sale of Royal Drawings

the Princess Royal's sketch brought 250 guineas, and that of the Prince of Wales 55 guineas, and the other three 30 guineas each. At the request of a good many influential people the purchasers consented to their remaining on exhibition for some time longer." A little later in the day *The Times*, which had no compassion for dishonest contractors and incompetent doctors, thus refers to those whom Horace Walpole would have dubbed "Royal and Noble Artists":

"The five works of the Queen's children—comprising 'The Knight,' by the Prince of Wales; the 'Battlefield,' by Princess Royal; 'Prince Hal,' by Prince Alfred; 'Prayer,' by the Princess Alice, and the 'Girl Asleep,' by the Princess Helena, were among the most famous of London 'lions' when they were on view in Pall Mall; and now they are lodged in more stately and more systematic fashion their power of attraction is proportionately increased. Each of the exhibition rooms is named after the Royal donor whose work is therein contained, and each of the five contributions stands as the chief gem among a number of works from contributors more or less aristocratic. It is late in the day to remark that the coloured drawing by the Princess Royal is the most remarkable work in the collection, and that a subscription list is open for its publication in chromolithography."\*

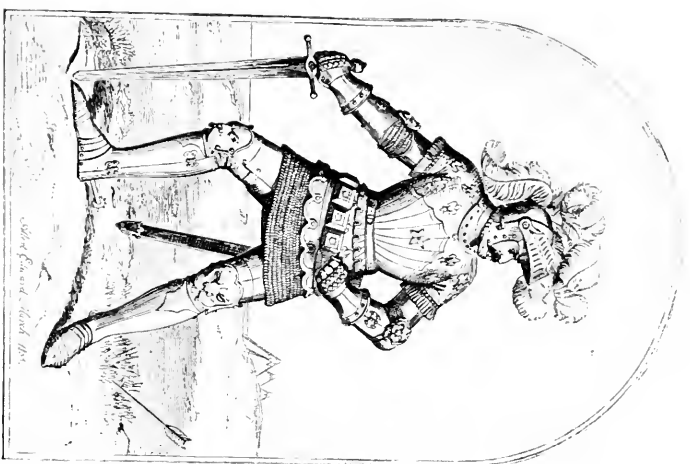
The visit of the Emperor and Empress of the French to Windsor scarcely enters into the story of this eventful boyhood, but Napoleon III. was very strongly impressed with the abundant promise of future greatness which already distinguished the Prince of Wales. Queen Victoria has herself perpetuated in her own way, at once graphic and

\* June 29, 1855.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

pathetic, the circumstances of the friendly welcome accorded at Windsor Castle to the nephew of the most powerful enemy that England had ever vanquished. At the ball given in the Waterloo Room, Queen Victoria danced, as very few women of her day could dance, with her imperial guest. "How strange," she afterwards wrote, "to think that I, the granddaughter of George III., should dance with the Emperor Napoleon, nephew of England's great enemy, now my nearest and most intimate ally, in the Waterloo Room, and this ally only six years ago living in this country an exile, poor and unthought of!" "Strange indeed," moralises Sir Theodore Martin, "and none could have been so deeply impressed by the contrast as the Emperor himself, when he looked round at the portraits of the great statesmen and soldiers, the struggle and glory of whose lives it had been to hold his famous ancestor in check."

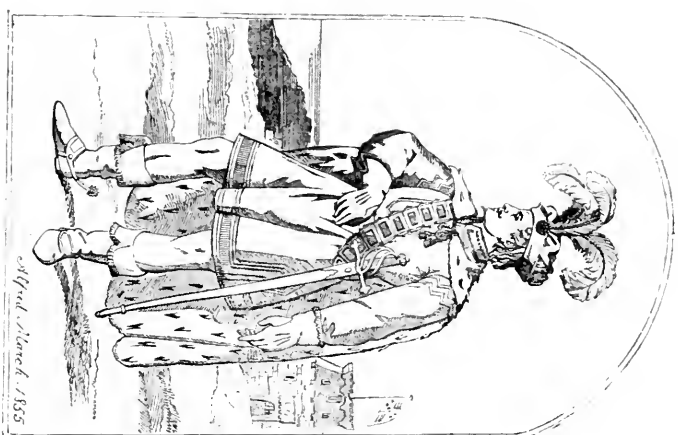
On Tuesday, May 1, the birthday of Prince Arthur, the Queen gave another ball at Buckingham Palace, "to the juvenile nobility and gentry, for which about two hundred and forty invitations were issued." The guests began to arrive soon after eight o'clock with their parents, and at ten minutes before nine the Queen and Prince Albert entered the Throne Room, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princes Alfred and Arthur, and the Princesses Alice, Helena and Louise, the Duchess of Kent, and several other members of the Royal Family. The Princess Royal and the other Royal Princesses were dressed in light blue tulle over a blue silk glacé slip, trimmed with ruches of white blonde, and ribbon. They carried bouquets of white hyacinths, and each wore wreaths of the same flower. The Princess Mary of Cam-



"THE KNIGHT"

DRAWING BY PRINCE OF WALES (1855)

*Presented to the Patriotic Fund Exhibition*



"THE PRINCE OF WALES, AFTERWARDS  
HENRY V"

DRAWING BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH (1855)

*Presented to the Patriotic Fund Exhibition*





## Prince Arthur's Birthday Ball

bridge wore a dress with three skirts of pink tulle over a rich pink glacé silk petticoat, looped up with bunches of apple blossom and green crepe leaves. The Princesses Adelaide\* and Feodore† of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, came in flounced dresses of white tarletan trimmed with white silk fringe, and with garlands of pink roses and white lilies. The ball was opened by a Royal quadrille. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were attired in Highland dress, which costume was worn by the sons of the Duke of Argyll, and other young Scotch nobles present. The festivities ended at midnight. Three weeks later the Prince of Wales witnessed the distribution of medals by the Queen at the Horse Guards; and on June 4, he once more accompanies his father and his younger brother, Prince Alfred, to the prize-giving and speech-making at Eton College. The camp before Sebastopol was at length placed in direct communication with London, and much disappointment was occasioned by the intelligence that the attack on the Redan, planned to coincide with Waterloo Day, had failed. On June 22 the venerable Duchess of Gloucester gave a juvenile ball at Gloucester House, at which the Queen and Prince Albert, together with all the youthful Princes and Princesses, were present. The Duchess received her visitors in the Lower Drawing-Room, opening out of which was the ball-room where a daïs had been erected for Her Majesty, with raised seats for the other members of the Royal

\* Born July 20, 1835; married September 11, 1856, Frederic, Hereditary Prince of Schleswig-Holstein, died January 25, 1900. The eldest of her four daughters married the reigning German Emperor, William II.

† Born July 7, 1839; married October 23, 1858, George, Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Meiningen; died February 10, 1872.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Family. Highland dresses were again very extensively worn, and a contemporary chronicler assured his readers "that the other youthful members of the Royal Family were attired in unpretentious costumes of exquisite taste." The supper is described as "elegant," and midnight was the signal for departure.

Early in July the King of the Belgians came to England, with his second son the Count of Flanders, and the Princess Charlotte. On the 7th the news of the death of Lord Raglan occasioned the Queen the deepest sorrow, and a week later she paid her first public visit to the encampment at Aldershot, accompanied by the King of the Belgians, the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred. The Royal party travelled by train to Farnboro', whence they proceeded in pony phaetons to the camp itself.

On July 31 the Prince of Wales was one of those who came with the Queen from Osborne to Portsmouth to witness the launch of the *Marlborough*. As the return visit to Paris was to occupy nearly the whole of the last fortnight in August, Prince Albert's always much-looked-forward-to birthday *fête* was given on August 3. The programme included a procession and a dinner on an unusually large scale, served in marquees, which was followed by a series of rural sports.

The visit to France unquestionably marked an epoch in the boyhood of the Prince of Wales, now nearing his fourteenth birthday. It was at the personal entreaty of the far-seeing French Emperor that the Queen and Prince Albert had decided, after mature reflection, to allow their two eldest children to accompany them. The Queen devoted a great many pages of her Journal to describing the

## Paris *en fête*

laying the foundation, in 1855, of that friendly feeling which is bearing such abundant fruit in 1906. Of her first arrival at Boulogne, Her Majesty says :

“ He [the Emperor] led me on shore, amid acclamations, salutes, and every sound of joy and respect. We four [the Queen, Prince, Prince of Wales, and Princess Royal] entered a landau carriage and drove through the crowded and decorated streets, the Emperor escorting us himself on horseback to the railway station, which was thronged with an enthusiastic crowd largely composed of ladies.”

Then of Paris itself :

“ Imagine this beautiful city, with its broad streets and lofty houses, decorated in the most tasteful manner possible, with banners, flags, arches, flowers, inscriptions, and, finally, illuminations ; full of people, lined with troops—National Guards and troops of the line and Chasseurs d’Afrique—beautifully kept and most enthusiastic ! And yet this gives but a faint notion of this triumph as it was. There were endless cries of ‘ Vive la Reine d’Angleterre ! Vive l’Empereur ! Vive le Prince Albert ! ’ The approaching twilight rather added to the beauty of the scene, and it was still quite light enough when we passed down the new Boulevard de Strasbourg (the Emperor’s creation) and along the Boulevards, by the Porte Saint-Denis, the Madeleine, the Place de la Concorde, and the Arc de Triomphe de l’Etoile.

“ In all this blaze of light from lamps and torches, amid the roar of cannon and bands and drums and cheers, we reached the palace. The Empress, with Princess Mathilde and the ladies, received us at

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the door, and took us up a beautiful staircase to our rooms, which are charming."

On August 24 the Emperor and his guests go to the Invalides, and Queen Victoria once more takes up her pen :

"The coffin is not yet in the vault, but in a small side chapel of St. Jérôme. Into this the Emperor led me, and there I stood, on the arm of Napoleon III., his nephew, before the coffin of England's bitterest foe ; I the grand-daughter of that king who hated him most, and who most vigorously opposed him, and this very nephew, who bears his name, being my nearest and dearest ally ! The organ of the church was playing 'God save the Queen' at the time (Her Majesty had heard the familiar tune rendered as a polka at the ball given on the previous evening at the Hôtel de Ville), and this solemn scene took place by torch-light, and during a thunderstorm. Strange and wonderful indeed ! It seems as if in this tribute of respect to a dead foe, old enmities and rivalries were wiped out, and the seal of heaven placed upon that bond of unity which is now happily established between the great and powerful nations. May heaven bless and prosper it !"

An excursion was made next day (Prince Albert's thirty-sixth birthday) to St. Germain, and emotions are awakened in the Queen's breast at the thought of the war waged against England by the great-grandfather of Louis XVIII. (to whom England gave back his throne) for the restoration of James II., the sworn foe of Her Majesty's Hanoverian ancestors.

Good stories of all sorts were soon afloat concerning the *bons-mots* of the Prince of Wales, including

## Prince Charming

the ancient chestnut of his telling Napoleon III. that "he and his sister would like to remain a little longer in Paris, and they could easily do so, as on account of the extent of the Royal Family, they would not be missed." Probably the two events which fixed themselves indelibly in his memory were his *tête-à-tête* drive with the Emperor through the crowded streets of Paris, he chatting and joking, while his host smoked a large cigar, and did his utmost to captivate the King *in petto*, and the dazzling *fête* at Versailles, of which his mother wrote: "It was one of the finest and most magnificent sights we had ever witnessed; there had not been a ball there since the time of Louis XVI., and the present one had been arranged after a print of a *fête* given by Louis XV."

Paris has rarely seen anything so brilliant either before or since. It was the Prince of Wales's first ball, and he appeared in that Highland costume which the fair Parisians pronounced to be *ravissant*. The Queen and Empress were literally blazing with diamonds. The Princess Royal, on the contrary, was simple in her dress as a school-girl in white, with a wreath of roses for her head-dress. The Emperor waltzed with the Princess Royal, and the dancing of the Prince of Wales was greatly praised by the French critics.\* Supper was served in the Theatre, a gorgeous service of gold plate being used by those in the Imperial box. Amongst those

\* Queen Victoria was always a most graceful and untiring dancer. She made a special study of ancient figure-dances, and was an excellent judge of the merits of every kind of dancing, from the *pas de quatre* to the Scotch reel or the sailors' hornpipe. The Prince of Wales soon trod in his mother's footsteps as far as this particular accomplishment was concerned. At the Duchess of Kent's Frogmore parties the performance of the *contre danse* known as *grand-père* ("follow my leader") by the Royal children, was a sight to see.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

who were present both at Versailles and the ball at the Hôtel de Ville was Prince Jerome Bonaparte, who had been spoken of nearly forty years before as a possible heir to the Throne of England! It is difficult to realise the irony of fate which destined the artless British maiden with the wreath of roses to become within the next few months (informally at any rate) the affianced bride of the Teuton Prince, who, before another fifteen years were over, would materially assist in the destruction of the Second Empire, and the bringing about of another period of exile for the descendants of the Man of Destiny.

“Mr. Punch” in the meantime had not slumbered. His cartoon “French Shawls for 1855—Tricolor à la Victoria and Union Jack à la Eugénie” was a masterpiece, and so was the picture “La Belle Alliance, 1855,” in which Queen Victoria is seen stroking the beak of a formidable-looking French eagle, while a still more ferocious British lion places its head in the lap of the Empress Eugénie, while Napoleon III. and Prince Albert tranquilly smoke their cigars in the background. What could possibly have been cleverer than the lines :

“Our gracious Queen—long may she fill her throne,—  
Has been to see Louis Napoléon.  
The Majesty of England—bless her heart!—  
Has cut her mutton with a Bonaparte;  
And Cousins Germans have survived the view  
Of Albert taking luncheon at St. Cloud.  
In our young days we little thought to see  
Such legs stretched under such mahogany;  
That British Royalty would ever share  
At a French Palace, French Imperial fare;  
Nor eat—as we should have believed at school—  
The croaking tenant of the marshy pool.  
At the *Trois Frères* we had not feasted then,  
As we have since, and hope to do again.

## From Osborne to Balmoral

This great event of course could not take place  
Without fit prodigies for such a case ;  
The brazen pig-tail of King George the Third  
Thrice with a horizontal motion stirr'd,  
Then rose on end, and stood so all day long  
Amid the cheers of an admiring throng.”\*

After a few days' rest at Osborne the Queen returned to London on Wednesday, September 4, when the Royal Family started for Balmoral direct by the Great Northern Railway. The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal drove to the station with the Queen and Prince Albert. It was about this time that the Rev. C. F. Tarver, M.A.,† was first appointed one of the tutors to the Prince of Wales, but Mr. F. Gibbs remained with him for some time longer.

Deer-stalking, grouse-shooting, long walks and drives, and Highland sports are once more the order of the day at Balmoral, and early in September came the welcome news of the long-expected fall of Sebastopol. On October 6 a ball was given

\* In writing of the Paris visit to Stockmar, Prince Albert said : “ You will be pleased to hear how well both the children behaved. Nothing could be more unembarrassed, more modest or more friendly. They have made themselves general favourites—especially the Prince of Wales, *qui est si gentil* ! As the French are sarcastic and not generally partial to strangers, this is much the more important.” In a letter to the Duchess of Kent, he told her that “ the children pleased everybody. The task was no easy one for them, but they discharged it without embarrassment and with natural simplicity.”

† The following paragraph occurs in *The Times* of September 15, 1859 :

“ The Rev. C. F. Tarver, M.A., who has since 1855 superintended the studies of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, will, upon H.R.H. leaving Holyrood previous to commencing his studies at Oxford, retire from the service of the Prince, and resume his parochial duties as Rector of Ilketshall, St. John's, Suffolk. We have reason to believe that Mr. Tarver has discharged his important duties to the entire satisfaction of the Royal parents of the Prince of Wales.”

## The Boyhood of a Great King

to which not only the tenants and gillies, but the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 79th and 93rd regiments, who had served in the Crimea, were bidden by the Queen. Amongst the Castle house-party was Prince Frederick William of Prussia.\* On the 16th the whole of the Royal Family take their departure for Windsor, where the resumption of the interrupted "Theatricals" on November 20, is decided on. Hitherto the performances had taken place in the Rubens Room. St. George's Hall "has now been fitted up for the purpose, its noble dimensions being better adapted for the convenience of the Court, and at the same time affording more space for scenic effect. A large quantity of new scenery has been prepared by Mr. Grieve, who has now been entrusted with the whole arrangement of this department. The stage, which will occupy about one-third of the Hall, is situated at the western end leading into the Guard Chamber, thus leaving the Throne end for the accommodation of Her Majesty and the distinguished guests who may be honoured with invitations."

The fourteenth birthday of the Prince of Wales was very generally observed in London, the Royal Standard being hoisted at the Tower, and the various public offices, the steamers and ships on the river being gaily decorated with the flags of all nations, that of Russia only excepted. There were the usual festivities at Windsor. The Prince of Wales accompanied his father on a shooting

\* The following note appeared a week later in *Punch* :

"FROM THE HIGHLANDS.

"A very suspicious looking Eagle has been observed hovering about the Royal Palace of Balmoral. It is supposed that the bird of ill omen has an eye towards Her Majesty's dovecote."



## A Good Shot

expedition in the Royal preserves, during which the Heir Apparent killed several head of game with his own gun.

On the evening of November 20 the comedy of "The Rivals" was successfully produced under the direction of Charles Kean. In the early days of December, Victor Emanuel II., King of Sardinia, arrived on a visit to Windsor, and was invested with the Order of the Garter. In the midst of the Christmas festivities of 1855 died, at the age of ninety-two, the well-known banker-poet, Samuel Rogers, of whom it had been said that "Death had forgotten him." Samuel Rogers had been for many years the link which connected the days of Johnson and Goldsmith with those of Dickens and Thackeray.

## CHAPTER XIII

### PEACE PROCLAIMED—BETROTHAL OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL—A WALKING TOUR IN WESSEX

1856

BEFORE the beginning of the year 1856 (which was, however, fated to witness hostilities on a more modest scale with both Persia and China) the Crimean War had worn out its welcome, and peace negotiations were already in progress. During the month of January two notable dramatic performances were given at Windsor Castle, under the able management of Mr. Charles Kean,\* at both

\* *The Illustrated London News* at this time published a portrait of Charles Kean, with the following suggestive and complimentary paragraph. "When Her Majesty commenced the series of private performances at Windsor Castle, which have had such a beneficial influence on our National drama and restored the prestige and fashion which had long been withdrawn, Mr. C. Kean was selected as Director, a post of great honour and a most flattering mark of royal favour, but one, at the same time beset with difficulty, requiring in its discharge the most consummate tact, impartiality and delicacy, all of which rare qualities he has exhibited on many occasions. It was at one time currently reported that he was about to receive a more permanent and substantial token of the satisfaction he had given in the highest quarters. We feel quite sure that the realisation of these rumours would have been hailed with delight by the public and the profession of which Mr. Kean is such a distinguished ornament. Whether in his private character or on public grounds as an actor and manager a more appropriate instance could hardly be selected as an exception to the rule of precedent. Poets, painters and sculptors, scientific and scholastic professors have often been distinguished by titles, pensions and honorary degrees; but the art which combines to some extent the blended

## At the Old Adelphi

of which the Prince of Wales was present. Amongst the Queen's visitors during the early days of February Lord and Lady Palmerston,\* and Sir Henry Keppel† all three of whom made a great impression on the mind of the Heir Apparent. On February 10 the Court removed to Buckingham Palace, and two days later the Prince of Wales, with the indefatigable Mr. Gibbs, was visiting the British Institution and the Architectural Exhibition in Suffolk Street.

On February 23 the Queen, ever mindful of the amusements, as well as of the lessons of her children, "commanded" a special afternoon performance at the "Old Adelphi," of which Benjamin Webster and "Madame Celeste" were now lessees. Her Majesty was accompanied to the theatre by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princesses Helena and Louise, and Prince Arthur. Several juvenile members of the nobility had the honour of being invited to share the enjoyment of a programme which included "Betsy Baker," "That Blessed Baby," and the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk," with the celebrated Madame Celeste as "Jack and Harlequin," and Miss Wyndham as

qualities and excellences of all, has never yet in England been made the subject of equal consideration." The honour of being the premier Knight of the Sock and Buskin was, however, reserved for Sir Henry Irving.

\* As in the case of Mr. Disraeli, the Queen had now forgiven and forgotten her old distrust of Lord Palmerston, and at length fully recognised the wisdom of his views about the *entente cordiale* with France. Lady Palmerston (whose Piccadilly *salon* was a power in the land) kept up a brisk and confidential correspondence with the Countess Walewska during the Crimean War (1854-1855) of a very interesting character.

† Sir "Harry" Keppel, who lately died on the verge of becoming a centenarian, became the life-long friend of King Edward VII., and lived to see his Coronation, five and forty years after their first meeting at Windsor.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

"Mother Goose and Columbine." Ten years (save a single month) had now elapsed since the famous visit to Astley's of March 24, 1846.\* Two nights later (February 25) the Prince of Wales and his two elder sisters went to the Princess's, where Charles Kean tempered the classical severity of the "Merchant of Venice," with the pantomime frivolities of "Harlequin, the Maid, and the Magpie."

Early in the following month (March 5) the Prince of Wales was to see from the windows of Buckingham Palace the glare of the flames which informed all London that Covent Garden Theatre, of which the Prince Regent had laid the foundation-stone with full masonic ritual, half a century before, and where he himself had listened to grand opera for the first time, was being burned to the ground. The catastrophe is described with some acerbity of language in the serious "summary" of events which *Punch* used to favour its readers with every half-year :

"During the 'operatic recess,' Mr. Gye, the lessee of Covent Garden Theatre, had sublet it to Mr. Anderson, a popular performer and conjurer, who styled himself 'Professor' and Wizard of the North, and who brought forward a very capital pantomime. Mr. Anderson's speculation, which extended over six weeks, had been successful, and he designed to terminate his season with a 'Great Carnival Benefit.' The waste walls and hoardings of the Metropolis—indeed the walls of all the large towns—were covered with immense placards announcing this 'Grand Carnival Complimentary Benefit and Dramatic Gala, to commence on

\* See p. 183.

## Confirmation of the Princess Royal

Monday morning, and to terminate with a *bal masqué* on Tuesday night.' This abandoned sacrifice to vice was destined to present its crowning offering in the conflagration of the temple. During the following afternoon the still smoking ruins were visited by the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal."

A day or so afterwards the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were at the British Museum, notebook in hand, with Mr. Gibbs (soon to become a C.B.) as mentor.

On Monday, March 17, the King of the Belgians arrived in England to be present at the Confirmation of his god-daughter, the Princess Royal, which took place in the private Chapel at Windsor Castle,\* on Thursday, the 20th, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford† officiating. In a contemporary picture of that ceremonial, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, as well as the Princesses Alice, Helena and Louise, are all shown to be present, sitting in a row next to the Queen. The proclamation of peace eleven days later was cheered just as heartily as the declaration of war had been two years before. On April 25 a third juvenile ball, on the same lines as the preceding ones, was given at Buckingham Palace, and Mr. Gibbs arranged for the benefit of his pupils a series of visits to several noted printing and lithographic establishments in London. At this time Prince

\* Formerly the music-room of Fanny Burney's Memoirs. It was converted into a chapel in 1843, and fitted up somewhat elaborately with pews, a pulpit, &c. One of the late Queen's biographers says it was *consecrated* in 1843 by Samuel Wilberforce, Dean of Westminster. Dr. Wilberforce, however, only became Dean in 1845, and Bishop of Oxford some months later.

† John Bird Sumner, D.D., and Samuel Wilberforce, D.D.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Albert's quite harmless pack of harriers had excited some adverse comment, but a friendly newspaper rejoined by expressing a fervent hope "that before many years are passed by, the Prince of Wales and his Royal brothers will be seen following their own pack of foxhounds in Windsor Forest, drowning the inevitable cares of state in the hearty, healthy, manly and truly English sport."

On Sunday, May 4, the day appointed for a general thanksgiving for the restoration of peace, the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, attended the service in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace. A few days later (May 12) the Queen and Prince Consort, with the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred and the Princess Royal, went from Osborne to Portsmouth Dockyard to inspect some of the cavalry regiments just returned from the Crimea. On the following day they embarked on the *Fairy*, and visited some of the ports of the Isle of Wight. Prince Frederick William of Prussia arrived once more in England, where he was now recognised, not as the "eagle of ill-omen," but the favoured suitor of the eldest daughter of the Queen, in whose company he visited early in June the great bazaar given in the grounds of Wellington Barracks for the purpose of providing funds for building schools and nurseries for the children of the Brigade of Guards. The Queen and Prince Albert, as well as the Prince of Wales and several of his brothers and sisters, were all present at this brilliant gathering. The London season was an unusually busy one, and on July 14, with the King of the Belgians and two of his children, as well as Prince Oscar of Sweden,\*

\* Now Oscar II., King of Sweden, born January 21, 1829. He was married in June, 1857. Succeeded 1871

## A Review at Aldershot

being her guests at the time, the Queen went down to the camp at Aldershot for the purpose of reviewing the regiments of the Guards and of the line recently returned from the Crimea. She was accompanied by her foreign visitors as well as by the Prince of Wales. After having driven round the camp and personally inspected the huts of several of the men, the Queen entertained the Duke of Cambridge, and a large number of officers, in the Royal Pavilion. On the following morning the parade took place in detestable weather. Despite a torrential downfall the Prince of Wales rode about on a little bay pony, "quite glossy with the rain." The Queen wore a military plume in her hat, and read her address to the troops, which excited a spirit-stirring demonstration on the part of the soldiers. The Royal party returned to Buckingham Palace in the afternoon, and on the following morning (July 16) the Queen, together with her visitors and the whole of the Royal children, viewed the march past of the Crimean battalions of the Foot Guards from the central balcony of Buckingham Palace. The Queen afterwards reviewed the Grenadier Guards in Hyde Park.

The greater part of August was spent at Osborne, from which several pleasant excursions were made both by land and sea. On Monday, August 4, Prince Albert went in the Royal yacht once more to inspect the progress of the breakwater works at Portland, attended by Captain Du Plat.\* The Queen, accompanied by her four eldest children, and the Duchess of Kent, embarked in the afternoon in the *Fairy*, and joined the Prince in the *Victoria and Albert* on his return voyage, returning to Osborne quite late in the evening.

\* Afterwards General Du Plat.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and Prince Arthur, embarked at Cowes in the *Victoria and Albert* on the afternoon of Sunday, August 10, and steamed to the westward on a cruise to Plymouth and the Channel. A squadron was in attendance on Her Majesty, and on Sunday night the yacht anchored off Portland, but proceeded at nine o'clock on Monday morning to Dartmouth. At three o'clock in the afternoon Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales embarked in the hired steamer *Dartmouth*, and proceeded up the Dart. The Queen was prevented from accompanying them, but later in the afternoon, the weather having improved, Her Majesty, with the Princess Royal and Prince Arthur, rowed up the river in her barge and took a drive in the neighbourhood. Mr. Gibbs was also with the Prince of Wales on board the *Dartmouth*, and when the Queen joined the Prince Consort in the State barge, he expressed his sorrow that she had missed seeing some of the most beautiful scenery he had ever met with.

On Tuesday, August 12, the Queen left Dartmouth, where the Mayor \* and Corporation had paid her their respects, and proceeded to Plymouth, where the naval and military authorities received her with the usual honours. Accompanied by the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, and Prince Arthur, Her Majesty landed at Mount Edgcumbe, and drove for some time in the neighbourhood. Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, visited the Docks and the new barracks and works at Mount Wise. On Wednesday, the 13th, the Queen and the rest of the Royal Family embarked in the *Fairy*, and, under salutes from all the ships in commission,

\* Mr. Timothy Carew.



## Loyal Addresses

went up the Hamoaze as far as Cothele, where, in consequence of the insufficient depth of water, they left the *Fairy*, and went on board the steamer *Gipsy*, which proceeded through the winding river to Morwellan. Here the Queen landed, and, with the rest of the party, drove to Endsleigh Cottage, a summer residence near Tavistock belonging to the Duke of Bedford. After spending some hours in the grounds and gardens of Endsleigh, the visitors returned by the morning route and re-embarked on the *Victoria and Albert*, about 6.30 P.M. Meanwhile a violent gale had sprung up.

The weather becoming more and more boisterous, the Queen resolved to return by railway. On Friday, August 15, they left Plymouth for Exeter, where they received an address from the Mayor [Mr. T. G. Norris] and Corporation. At 12.57 the Royal train reached Bristol, where the Queen was met by the Mayor [Mr. J. Vining] and sundry members of the Corporation, who had not, like their Exeter *confrères*, donned the full panoply of municipal splendour. The royal visitors were also saluted by Lord Barrington, the Chairman, and several of the Directors of the Great Western Railway, as well as by the high officials of the Bristol and Exeter line. The train again left at 1.15 P.M. The local pressmen took careful note of the costumes of Bristol's illustrious guests on that eventful occasion, so we are able to learn after the lapse of just half a century, that "Her Majesty wore a white bonnet and a lace veil, and a blue mantle trimmed with black lace, over a French *barège* dress," while "Prince Albert was habited in a black frock coat, light vest, and shepherd's pattern trousers" and the Prince of Wales looked very smart "in a blue jacket and trousers, white waistcoat,

## The Boyhood of a Great King

and turned-down collar." At Salisbury a still longer halt took place, for after the Mayor [Mr. Abraham Jackson] and Corporation had presented their address, the Queen, Prince Albert and their children took a late lunch at the White Hart Hotel, and afterwards viewed the glorious old Cathedral "with the Dean [Henry Parr Hamilton] and Chapter in attendance." They then proceeded to Southampton, and embarked on board the royal yacht, *Elfin*, and arrived at Osborne at a quarter before seven.

Lord and Lady Palmerston were this year amongst the guests at the annual *fête champêtre* in honour of Prince Albert's birthday.

On Wednesday (August 27) the Queen and Prince Albert, with Prince Alfred and the Princess Royal, left Osborne, and proceeded to Richmond Park to visit the Duchess of Gloucester, going thence to Buckingham Palace. On Thursday, August 28, they left London for Edinburgh, passing the night at Holyrood Palace, and going thence to Balmoral. This particular sojourn in the Highlands does not enter into a narrative of the early life of King Edward VII. While there, Queen Victoria welcomed Miss Florence Nightingale,\* the Prince of Orange and other illustrious visitors, but the Prince of Wales, and his little brothers Prince Arthur (now aged six) and the three-year-old Prince Leopold remained at Osborne. There were several reasons for this change. It had been thought proper that the Prince of Wales should now make an excursion, on lines not hitherto adopted. It was a fresh departure in the educational scheme now nearing its later phases. Queen Victoria's keen appreciation of the natural beauties of Dorset,

\* Still happily alive at the jubilee of her splendid services in the Crimea.

## An Incognito Walking Tour

Devon and Cornwall have frequently been alluded to in these pages.\* All through her long life she never forgot her early impressions of Penzance, Falmouth, Mount Edgcumbe, Torbay and Sidmouth, or of Lyme Regis, Bridport, Melbury, Dorchester, Weymouth, or Swanage, which she had quitted regretfully in October, 1833, wearing the simple bonnet of plaited straw which she had received from the hands of the representatives of a now almost entirely neglected local industry. Old associations were doubtless renewed by the only too brief sea-trip just ended, and the rapid homeward journey by rail. Walking-tours, in these days of lightning locomotion, are generally regarded as an extinct form of exercise and enjoyment; but before the end of August (1856) the Queen had decided that an expedition of this healthy and instructive kind, with Mr. Frederick Gibbs and Colonel Cavendish, one of her grooms-in-waiting, as "guides, philosophers and friends," should this year take the place of the Prince of Wales's annual sojourn at Balmoral. It was to commence in the Wessex soon to be immortalised on both sides of the Atlantic through the marvellous pen-pictures of Thomas Hardy. It thus came to pass that on Thursday, September 25, the Prince and his friends, who had left Osborne two days previously, had found comfortable quarters at the "Crown," in Wimborne, and were busily employed in visiting the ancient Minster, which had sheltered the bones of two Saxon Sovereigns, and its wonderful library of chained books. By luncheon time on the following day they were at Swanage, and the picturesque home of the "paviors" and the straw-plaiters, where the flotilla of the stone-cutters (and in still

\* See *ante*, p. 64.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

more remote times that of the smugglers) used to ride at anchor in the sheltered bay, on the shores of which a seventeenth-century manor-house had been converted into a commodious hotel, known, since the events of October 1833, at any rate, as the "Royal Victoria." A very pleasant place is "Sunny Swanage," with its mysterious caves and giant cliffs, in close proximity to Corfe Castle, and a dozen other notable historic sites. In 1856 Mr. Richard Roe was the landlord of the "Royal Victoria," to which the Queen had particularly directed her son's attention. Swanage had made rapid strides towards becoming a popular pleasure-resort during the quarter of a century which had elapsed since the Duchess of Kent and her daughter had embarked there for Norris Castle, and on September 26, 1856, the hotel was full to overflowing. The incognito of the newly arrived visitors was well preserved, nobody, as yet, having the slightest suspicion of their identity. On asking for three beds, Mr. Richard Roe (the name was ominous, to legal ears at any rate) replied that two only were available, and that "the young gentleman" must put up with a sofa in the corridor. In the course of the night a storm arose which did considerable damage, a large pleasure-boat, belonging to a man named Hixson, being dashed to pieces. Before leaving the strangers made many inquiries as to what had happened, and some weeks after a cheque arrived which quite consoled the sufferer for his loss.\*

The fortunate Hixson lost no time in re-building the damaged craft, which now received the name of the *Prince of Wales*, and may, it is said, be

\* Mr. W. M. Hardy of Swanage has collected several interesting details connected with the Prince of Wales's brief sojourn there in 1856.

## An Adventure at Swanage

still seen at Poole. Next morning the Prince asked to see the "ball room" of the hotel, but Mr. Roe was still too busy to "attend to boys." After leaving Swanage the three much-amused travellers walked westwards along the cliffs to St. Alban's Head, and thence to Kingston, where a carriage and their luggage awaited them. From the "Red Lion," at Wareham, they came on to the "King's Arms," at Dorchester, the ancient hostelry associated with the memories of Nelson and Hardy, which Thomas Rowlandson had sketched sixty years before. Next day was Sunday, and the Prince of Wales, Mr. Gibbs and Colonel Cavendish attended service at St. Peter's Church. Before the end of the week the secret had oozed out, and the *Sherborne Journal*, alluding to the presence of the Prince of Wales in Dorset, said: "Such was the studied strictness of his incognito that he took his departure before the loyal inhabitants of the town were aware of the honour conferred upon them by the visit of the Heir Presumptive to the Crown of these Realms. The young Prince walked the streets with the jaunty independent air of an Englishman, and chatted without the smallest restraint or without the slightest show of formal condescension with the poorest of the inhabitants. He had even entered into a personal negotiation with the owner of an extraordinarily sagacious dog, with a view to the purchase of the animal." The teapot used by the three visitors at the King's Arms now bears the Prince of Wales's plume of feathers.

On Monday morning another move was made towards the west, and after following the Roman Via Iceniana for some distance, they arrived at Bridport, passing within a mile of the town the very spot at which, little more than two centuries

## The Boyhood of a Great King

before, Charles, Prince of Wales and King of England *de jure*, had saved his life by turning suddenly down a narrow lane, thus checkmating two parties of his pursuers.\* Here they put up at the Bull, another of those old-world "inns" for which Wessex is justly famous, and in front of which one of the skirmishes of Monmouth's ill-starred rebellion of 1685 had been fought. Before the end of the week the jealously guarded incognito was an incognito no longer, and Queen Victoria noted in her Journal that "Bertie had been recognised at Dorchester."† Five days later (October 4) the vigilant editor of the *Bridport News* (then only in the second year of its existence) informed its readers that "had our townsfolk been aware of the exalted personage who was in their midst on Monday last (September 29) no little sensation would have been created. On that day about one o'clock, two gentlemen and a youth of cheerful and open countenance, took up their quarters at the Bull Hotel, but no other notice was taken of them than is customary of gentlemanly strangers. They having made inquiries with respect to the manufacturers of the town, Mr. Knight‡

\* In 1901, on the 250th anniversary of September 23, 1651, an appropriate memorial was placed at the juncture of the Dorchester Road and Lee or Lea Lane, through which Charles II. reached Broadwindsor by way of Bradpole and the valley of the Brit.

† In his correspondence with Baron Stockmar, Prince Albert made several allusions to the walking tour of September, 1856, and all that it was hoped to achieve. In one letter he informed him that the Prince of Wales had started from Osborne on September 23, adding the words "May the experiment succeed." In another letter he says: "Bertie's tour has gone off well, and seems to interest him greatly. Unfortunately, as I have just heard, he was recognised at Dorchester, and an article has appeared in the Dorset local paper." A fortnight later he assured the Baron that "Bertie had manifestly profited by his tour."

‡ The father of "mine host" of 1906.

## Trade Secrets in Danger

took the opportunity of Mr. Joseph Gundry\* being at the hotel, to introduce that gentleman to the strangers of whom they asked permission to inspect his manufactures ; permission being given, the gentlemen made their way to Mr. Gundry's warehouse ; after remaining there a few minutes, they were accompanied by Mr. E. Crabbe to the spinning walks of Mr. R. Powell, in St. Michael's Lane, where Mr. Crabbe explained to them the principal processes in the manufacture of lines.

"It was observed that one of the gentlemen was particular in repeating the explanations to the youth, but of course not the slightest idea of the reason was entertained.† After a gratuity of five shillings to the workmen in the walk, the party took their leave, expressing their thanks to Mr. Crabbe for his kind attention. On arriving at the top of St. Michael's Lane they asked their way to Charmouth, and took that direction. A carriage from the Bull followed shortly afterwards. We understand that Mr. Gundry much regretted that he was not aware of the rank of his illustrious visitors. Mr. Crabbe, too, was sorry for the same reason, and had he known that he was giving explanations to the Heir Presumptive to the Crown, would have presented him with a fishing line of such remarkably fine texture as would have made it something worth preserving as a memorial of his visit to this town. His Royal Highness is making a tour of the provinces *incognito*."

At Charmouth the travellers passed the door of the old "Queen's Head," where Charles II.

\* The grandfather of the present owner of the Hyde, Bridport.

† To those who read between the lines it is evident that some suspicion must have arisen at the time in the minds of those chiefly interested, that the sacred secrets of the "trade of the town" were in imminent danger.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

had passed the night of September 22-23, 1651, while waiting for the boat which never came, and they must have found much to interest them at "Lyme of the King" (the scene of Monmouth's landing in 1685), and where only twenty-three years previously (1833) Queen Victoria had embarked for Plymouth. At Honiton (where in 1833 the Queen had started on her posting journey of over a hundred miles to Swanage) the walking-tour appears to have abruptly ended. The secret was out, and before the end of the week the Prince of Wales was once more hard at work in the school-room at Osborne.

Within a fortnight of his return from Wessex, the Prince of Wales travelled to Windsor to welcome the Queen and Prince Albert, who returned there on October 16. On Saturday, October 25, the Prince Consort went to inspect the works at Wellington College, while the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred journeyed to London to call on the Duchess of Gloucester. In the course of the next day or two it was settled that Prince Alfred, who, to a great extent, had been the companion of his elder brother both in work and play, should go for a time to Geneva for the purpose of studying modern languages. In the early days of October he left Windsor, attended by Sir Frederick Stovin and Lieutenant Cowell, travelling to Switzerland by way of Bonn. The Prince of Wales accompanied his brother as far as Dover. The Belgian royalties are once more in England, and it was announced that on Thursday, November 13, the "School for Scandal" and "Hush-Money" were to begin auspiciously the Windsor Theatricals of the season of 1856-1857. It was arranged that Mr. Webster should play the part of "Sir Peter Teazle," with Mr. Wigan as "Joseph Surface,"



## A Family Bereavement

Mr. G. Vining as "Charles Surface," and Miss Heath\* as "Lady Teazle." But *l'homme propose et Dieu dispose*. Queen Victoria's half-brother fell suddenly ill, and everything had to be altered. The customary festivities in celebration of the Prince of Wales's birthday were omitted; the departure of the Duke and Duchess of Brabant was expedited, and all invitations to the Castle were cancelled. On Saturday (November 8) Prince Frederick William of Prussia, the *fiancé* of the Princess Royal, arrived at Dover, and came on to Windsor, where a week later Queen Victoria received the news of Prince Charles's death at Wald Leiningen, of a third attack of apoplexy. At his funeral on November 20, Sir Alexander Malet represented the Queen. Before that date Prince Frederick William of Prussia had quitted England to make the acquaintance of the Emperor and Empress of the French at the Tuileries. The Court, having spent three weeks at Osborne, returned to Windsor for Christmas, which was unattended by the usual gaieties. It was, however, whispered that Sheridan's great comedy would after all be played on January 15.

\* Afterwards Mrs. Wilson Barrett.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE YEAR OF THE INDIAN MUTINY—A SOJOURN IN RHINE LAND—WITH ALBERT SMITH AT CHAMOUNIX

1857

THE New Year opened brightly for the Prince of Wales, whose prowess in the hunting-field began to be talked of, and who doubtless keenly enjoyed the production of the postponed Sheridan masterpiece at Windsor on January 15, when Miss Woolgar (Mrs. Alfred Mellon) did ample justice to the part of "Lady Teazle." Between the performance of Planché's "Secret Service" and Dance's "Hush-Money" (with Messrs. Robson and F. Matthews and Miss Woolgar and Miss Heath in the casts) on the 28th of that month, and that of "Richard II." on February 5, the fifth session of the fourth Parliament of Queen Victoria was duly opened, while the Prince of Wales, who did not go to London, enjoyed some excellent skating at Frogmore. Prince Alfred still remained at Geneva, and early in March the following interesting information was vouchsafed to the public: "His Royal Highness takes lessons from the best masters, and gives them great satisfaction. Prince Alfred has distinguished himself on the ice before all the youths of Geneva in the art of skating. The Prince occupies the first floor of the Hôtel des Bergers. The second floor is occupied by the

## Prince Alfred's Diplomacy

Grand Duchess of Leuchtenberg, sister of the Empress of Russia, with her suite. Lately the Grand Duchess asked the Prince to show her some portraits and sketches he possessed, amongst them being some engravings representing scenes in the Crimean War. On coming to a particular one the Prince appeared greatly embarrassed, and endeavoured to remove it unnoticed. This movement of her young friend was seen by the Duchess, who laughed, and, taking up the engraving, said, 'No, no; let me also look at this one.' The subject it represented was the taking of Russian colours by English soldiers."

The Berlin papers were already busy with the coming marriage (now quite an open secret) of Prince Frederick William and the Princess Royal. All sorts of dates were discussed for the ceremony, and it was announced that a house was already in process of fitting up for their prospective accommodation. A little later "Mr. Punch" oblivious of the sly hits at the "eagle of ill-omen," sings in chorus with the rest of them :

" Daughter of England, just about to wed  
The Prussian youngster—blessings on your head !  
When your Mamma—Time spins so fast away—  
Was married, seems but just the other day.  
Perhaps she will, in quite as short a space,  
Have a granddaughter in her daughter's case.  
If so, so be it  
May we all live to see it,  
And to see yet more  
That we may roar  
And shout Hurrah !  
And sing, God save great Grandmamma !  
May you enjoy no end of happy life,  
Have a good husband and prove a good wife."

On the nineteenth anniversary of the Queen's marriage [February 10], a grand concert took place

## The Boyhood of a Great King

in St. George's Hall, Windsor. The performers numbered one hundred and forty, and Mrs. Anderson, who had been the Queen's music-mistress many years before, resumed her duties as pianist. The principal soloists were Madame Clara Novello, Madame Bassano, Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Weiss. The Court removed to Windsor, and on Monday, February 16, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice were present at the marriage in the Private Chapel at Buckingham Palace of Colonel Biddulph, Master of the Queen's Household, to the Hon. Mary Frederica Seymour, one of her Majesty's Maids of Honour.

The storm-cloud in the Far East which called forth that wonderful cartoon: "Oh! God of Battles, steel my soldiers' hearts. Henry V. Act IV." [October 14], and the bitter denunciations of "Clemency" Canning, the "Sepoy Governor-General" [October 24] had not yet burst. Early in April the Prince of Wales was once more out with the hounds in the neighbourhood of Windsor, and practised hands declared "he had lately attained great proficiency in crossing the country." On Tuesday, April 14, the Princess Beatrice was born, and the following bulletin was issued by the Queen's medical attendants:

"BUCKINGHAM PALACE, *April 14, 1857, 3 P.M.*

"The Queen was safely delivered of a Princess this morning at 45 minutes past one o'clock. Her Majesty and the infant Princess are well.

"JAMES CLARK, M.D.

"CHARLES LOCOCK, M.D.

"ROBERT FERGUSSON, M.D."

News of the happy event was at once telegraphed to the Emperor of the French. Exactly a fortnight

## Death of the Duchess of Gloucester

later, passed tranquilly away the venerable Duchess of Gloucester, the last surviving child of George III. and Queen Charlotte, at the advanced age of eighty-one. In her youth she had been "the lovely Princess Mary" of Miss Burney's *Memoirs*. She had survived her husband and cousin two and twenty years, and ever since 1850 had been Ranger and Keeper of Richmond Park. On May 8 the Duchess was buried at Windsor, the Prince of Wales and his father being amongst the mourners. The house in which the Duchess died had once been the property of the Earl of Elgin, and, from having sheltered the Elgin Marbles, had been called a "stone-shop" by Lord Byron, who spoke of it in "English bards and Scotch reviewers" as

. . . . "General mart  
For all the mutilated blocks of art."

In the state drawing-room was an embroidered carpet, presented to the Duchess by eighty-four ladies of rank, each of whom had herself worked a compartment. House, furniture, and needlework have now vanished for ever from human ken.

"The dead Duchess's obsequies" were, we learn with interest, "conducted by Mr. Banting, of St. James's Street, whose experience in ceremonials of this character now includes no less than fourteen royal interments dating back to the time of Princess Charlotte."\*

The greater part of the month of May was passed at Osborne, where the thirty-eighth birthday of Queen Victoria, which fell on a Sunday, was celebrated *en famille*, the public rejoicings in London

\* A few years later Mr. W. Banting astonished the world by a pamphlet on the rational treatment of obesity, which went through many editions, and finally added the name of the author both as a noun and a verb to the English language.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

taking place on the Tuesday following [May 26]. A few days later the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia arrived at Osborne on a short visit to the Queen. The second son of the Emperor Nicholas was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and was credited with having invented the apothegm "the best diplomacy is the army." On Tuesday, June 9, the Court removed to Windsor Castle for Ascot, the Prince of Wales being accompanied by Mr. Gibbs. On Thursday, the 11th, Ascot was visited, and it was announced that "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will, in the course of the present summer, make a tour on the Continent, residing for about six weeks on the banks of the Rhine at Kœnigswinter at the foot of the Drachenfels, where a commodious hotel has been engaged for His Royal Highness. It is expected when the season advances His Royal Highness will proceed by the Rhine to Switzerland for the purpose of visiting the Alps. He will be attended by Major-General the Hon C. Grey, Lieutenant-Colonel Ponsonby, Mr. Gibbs, the Rev. Mr. Tarver, and Dr. Armstrong, R.N."

On June 16 the newly born Princess was baptized with water brought from the Jordan by Captain Nightingale. She received the names of Beatrice Mary Victoria Féodore, and her sponsors were the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Royal and Prince Frederick William of Prussia. At a Council held on Thursday, June 25, an order was passed for publishing a Letter Patent by which the Queen granted to Prince Albert the title of Prince Consort during their joint lives. Her Majesty was also pleased to declare her Royal will and pleasure that in all prayers, litanies and collects for the Royal Family, the words "The Prince Consort," be inserted instead

## The Order of Valour

of the words "Prince Albert." On the following day (June 26) the "Order of Valour" [the Victoria Cross] was inaugurated by the Queen in Hyde Park, in the presence of six thousand of her troops. The weather was magnificent, and there were no less than sixty-one recipients of the honour—twelve from the Navy, two from the Royal Marines, and the rest from the Army. The Queen was mounted on a roan charger, and wore a riding habit of dark blue skirt and scarlet body or jacket, resembling a military tunic, and a gold embroidered sash over the left shoulder. Her black riding-hat was surrounded with a gold band, and ornamented with red and white feathers. Lady Churchill and Miss Bulteel both wore black habits. The Prince Consort and Prince Frederick were in uniform, and the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were kilted, and rode ponies. At the end of the month a visit was paid by the Queen, accompanied by the Prince Consort, Prince Frederick William of Prussia, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and Prince Alfred—the latter having now returned from Geneva—to the Art Treasures Exhibition at Manchester. On Monday, June 29, the Royal party reached Worsley Hall, where they were the guests of the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere. They returned to London on Thursday, July 2, and on the following Saturday evening [July 4] the Queen, with the Prince Consort, their elder children, and the whole of her foreign guests, honoured the amateur performance, under the management of Mr. Charles Dickens, of Mr. Wilkie Collins's drama of "The Frozen Deep," at the Gallery of Illustrations in Regent Street. On Monday, July 6, a ball was given at Prussia House, the residence of the Prussian Legation, in celebration of the approaching

## The Boyhood of a Great King

matrimonial alliance between the Prince of Prussia and the Princess Royal.

There is some discrepancy in the different accounts given of the actual date of departure of the Prince of Wales for the banks of the Rhine. In the "Life of the Prince Consort,"\* he is supposed to write to Baron Stockmar on July 26, 1857: "Bertie set out to-day at noon for Koenigswinter—he will take a week to get there. Of the young people only Lord Derby's son† will go with him in the first instance; Wood,‡ Cadogan§ and Gladstone|| will follow"; but long before that date one reads that "The Prince of Wales, who is travelling under the name of Baron Renfrew, reached Liège on the evening of the 9th [July], by steamer from Namur. The Prince, accompanied by his suite, arrived at Aix-la-Chapelle on the evening of the 11th. After receiving the compliments of the military authorities stationed at Aix, the Prince went to the Hôtel Grand Monarque, which was suitably prepared for his reception. The spacious courtyard of the Hôtel, enlivened by many of the national flags of England waving above tiers of choice flowers, was filled with the English residents there, who were all eager to behold their young Prince. The Prince after gracefully acknowledging this welcome, took possession of the suite of apartments reserved for his reception, being the same as were occupied by his father, Prince Albert, on his journey to England

\* Vol. iv. p. 70.

† Frederick Arthur Stanley, now 16th Earl of Derby, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., born 1848.

‡ Charles Lindley Wood, now 2nd Viscount Halifax, born 1839.

§ George Henry Cadogan, now 5th Earl Cadogan, K.C., P.C., born 1840.

|| William Henry Gladstone, eldest son of the late Rt. Honble. W. E. Gladstone. Mr. W. H. Gladstone died in 1891.



## At Kœnigswinter

to claim the hand of Victoria. On the following day, after making inspection of the monuments of this ancient city, the Prince left by the afternoon train for Kœnigswinter." Be this as it may, Sir Theodore Martin gives the fullest information as to the suite at Kœnigswinter, which consisted of "General Grey,\* Colonel H. Ponsonby,† his domestic tutor, Mr. Gibbs, his classical tutor, the Rev. Charles Tarver,‡ and Dr. Armstrong."§

On July 26 the Prince Consort was one of those who witnessed the marriage of King Leopold's only daughter, the Princess Charlotte, to the Arch-Duke Maximilian of Austria. At this very time the English papers were busying themselves about the visit of Prince Jerome Napoleon ("Plon Plon") to the lakes of Southern Ireland, and the banquet given in his honour by the Mayor of Cork. On Thursday, August 6, the Emperor and Empress of the French arrived at Osborne in the steam yacht *La Reine Hortense*. They remained at Osborne till

\* General Sir Charles Grey, author of the "Early Years of the Prince Consort." Born in 1804, and from 1861 until his death in 1870 Private Secretary to Queen Victoria.

† Afterwards General Sir Henry Frederick Ponsonby, G.C.B. Born in 1825, he became in 1870 Private Secretary to Queen Victoria, and held that important post till his death in 1895.

‡ More than one of the King's biographers assert that Mr. Gibbs was a Nonconformist. In any case when he quitted the Royal service on November 9, 1858, the Rev. Charles Tarver (afterwards Canon of Chester) was formally appointed "Director of Studies and Chaplain to the Prince of Wales." He continued to act in that capacity till the autumn of 1859.

§ Sir Alexander Armstrong (1818-1899) was a distinguished naval medical officer, who had been appointed to the Royal yacht in 1846. In 1871 he was made a K.C.B., and although he was for many years a constant correspondent of both King Edward VII. and the late Duke of Coburg, his close connection with their early training is not mentioned in the D.N.B., where his career is dealt with in Supplemental Volume I.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Monday, the 10th. The next few days are spent by the Queen and the Prince Consort in the tranquil enjoyment of their delightful island-home, the nurseries of which were now only tenanted by the four-year-old Prince Leopold and the infant Princess Beatrice. If the former already showed signs of that ability which afterwards distinguished him, *the* "Baby" of 1857 and the few following years was the "sunshine" of the house. To the hour of his death she was her father's darling and the object of her mother's ceaseless care. In April, 1858, the Prince Consort wrote to Baron Stockmar: "Little Beatrice is an extremely attractive, pretty, intelligent child, indeed the most amusing baby we have had." The nurseries at Osborne in the latter years of the late Queen's life, when tenanted by the children of Princess Henry of Battenberg, the "Baby" of the late "eighteen-fifties," had not varied, to any appreciable extent, from what they were in 1857. When one reflects that it was here that the future Queen of Spain and her three brothers\* passed a great portion of the happy days of childhood, one may be excused for quoting a portion of the graphic description given of them from a work already referred to.† The spacious and airy nurseries, which were specially arranged by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, were in the Queen's wing of the house, and commanded charming views of the Solent and the gardens. Needless to say, they were in direct communication with the Queen's

\* Princess Victoria Eugénie Julia Ena, born October 29, 1887, betrothed to Alfonso XIII., King of Spain (born 1886), March 1906; Prince Alexander Albert, born 1886; Prince Leopold Arthur Louis, born 1889; Prince Maurice Victor Donald, born 1891.

† "The Private Life of Queen Victoria," by one of Her Majesty's servants.

Birmingham Palace



For  
dear Arthur.



Ms. A.6.23.1060

PEN AND INK SKETCH

BY QUEEN VICTORIA OF PRINCESS BEATRICE WHEN NEARLY THREE  
YEARS OLD. GIVEN BY THE QUEEN TO PRINCE ARTHUR (DUKE OF  
CONNAUGHT) FEBRUARY 23, 1860



## A Royal Nursery

own apartments. "As all nurseries should be," writes the author of the "Private Life of Queen Victoria," "the whole suite is arranged indiscriminately for sleeping and living. The largest of these rooms is almost the prettiest, being decorated with a fresh white paper besprent with gay flowers and bright chintzes that match. A zig-zag patterned carpet covers the floor, the entire centre of which is left free of furniture. A nursery guard stands before the fire, and two ample screens, one of scraps, the other chintz-covered, mask the doors. A round table, littered with toys, and some side-tables bearing photographs and books, have their full complement of wide, low chairs. The cots in the room are quite old-fashioned, being mahogany with cane sides, the white fringes that hang round them forming an ideally neat little valance. The bedclothes have a simple arrangement of strings, by which they are kept over restless little bodies during the night. Two tiny rush-seated armchairs suggest delightful, childish days. All round the room are literally stacks of toys. The pictures on the wall follow out the Queen's taste in such matters. A few are of sacred subjects, the rest are portraits, among them being the likenesses of the Prince Consort and of the children, and their many cousins. Traces of the little ones at Osborne are found in the shape of sundry toys in the Observatory Tower of the house, and down in Osborne Bay where in a well-arranged floating bath they learn to swim, as their Royal aunts and uncles did before them; as well as in the Lower Alcove, a most delectable and picturesque garden retreat on the Lower Terrace, which faces the big fountain, and has a charming view of the Valley Walk, where on wet summer afternoons the Royal children have a picnic tea in just the same

## The Boyhood of a Great King

simple homely fashion as the Queen so loved in earlier days."

The Princess Ena and her little brothers were also the latest occupants of that "large, airy apartment at Windsor overlooking the South Terrace, the Stables and the Home Park, which was next to the Queen's private audience-chamber, and one room away from her own sitting-room." In 1901, numberless sketches and paintings executed by Queen Victoria's children, of scenes in Scotland, pet animals and birds, and various essays at family portraits, still decorated the walls. It was only when the sons and daughter of Princess Beatrice (the "amusing baby" of 1857 and 1858) began to grow up that the grand riding-school which played so important a part in the upbringing of King Edward VII. once more came into constant use.

On August 17 the Queen and Prince Consort, with their four children,\* made a cruise in the yacht *Victoria and Albert*, going first to the Channel Islands and afterwards to Cherbourg, where they were shown all over the new works by Admiral Count de Gourdon, the Prefet Maritime. They returned to Osborne on Wednesday, the 19th. It was now a time of great anxiety both for the Queen and the Prince Consort. The Indian Mutiny had broken out, and a feeling of irritation with France began to make itself felt, to become intensified during the following year. No sooner had the Queen returned from her short cruise than the question of our national defences began to fill her mind. Her personal observations at Cherbourg helped her to realise the inherent weakness of

\* Prince Alfred, Princess Alice, Princess Helena and Princess Louise. It was the first excursion of the kind in which the sturdy, high-spirited and lovable Princess Alice took part.

## Mountaineering at Chamounix

Portsmouth and Plymouth, and no time was lost in calling for confidential reports on the subject drawn up by the most competent experts available.\*

At the end of August the Court sets out for Balmoral. For the second time the Prince of Wales was to miss the deer-stalking, the grouse-drives, the Braemar Gathering and the cheery Tenants' ball. He was, however, now in Switzerland boldly breasting mountains more formidable than those of Aberdeenshire. On September 5, accompanied by the Prince of Leiningen,† General Sir W. Codrington,‡ Colonel Ponsonby, Mr. Gibbs

\* The following unpublished letters of the Prince Consort in the possession of the writer abundantly testify to the untiring personal efforts put forth by the Queen and himself to put the country in a proper state of defence :

I.

"MY DEAR LORD PANMURE,—I return the Plan for the defence of Portsmouth, which has received the Queen's approval.

"Ever yours truly,

"B.P. 27/1/58."

"ALBERT.

II.

"MY DEAR GENERAL PEEL,—The Queen wishes me to say that she has seen with much regret that according to the returns of the last quarter which she received last evening, the small arms completed for the service (the Enfield rifle pattern, 1853) are so very insignificant in amount. The Government factory at Enfield has turned out only 15,412 in 3 months, London only 3130 and Birmingham only 2244. All the efforts which the nation may make for its defence will be unavailing without arms. Should not a vigorous effort be made on the part of the Govt. to put the country in safety in this respect. May I take this opportunity also for asking whether any steps are being taken to secure the ground for the new Guards' Barracks in this town.

"Yours truly,

"B.P. 13/5/59."

"ALBERT.

† Probably Prince Edward, b. 1833.

‡ Sir William John Codrington (1804–1884) had apparently taken the place of General Grey. He had been Commander-in-Chief at Sebastopol (1855–1856), and in 1859 was appointed Governor of Gibraltar.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

and Dr. Armstrong, he had arrived at Chamounix from Martigny by the Tête Noir. It was the Prince's intention to pass a few days in the valley, which is crowded with visitors. Two days later one learns "that the Royal party, accompanied by Mr. Albert Smith, who is now at Chamounix, and had the honour of acting as guide on this occasion, visited the Cascade du Dard, and afterwards traversed the Glacier du Boissons." The Indian cloud grows darker and darker. Delhi was captured at last, but fierce fighting continued around Lucknow, and Campbell's victory at Cawnpore had still to be won. October 7 was declared to be a day of National fast and humiliation. It was nowhere more strictly observed than by the Queen and her family at Balmoral. The outlook at home was scarcely more cheering than that abroad. It was a period of profound financial depression, and there were already indications of the great commercial crisis, which, a few weeks later (November 12), necessitated the suspension of the Bank Charter Act of 1844. Nevertheless, a quarter of a million sterling was collected for the sufferers from the unspeakable horrors wrought by the revolted Sepoys. The Queen left Balmoral on October 13, and after passing one night at Haddo House, as the guest of the Earl of Aberdeen, and another at Edinburgh, she arrived at Windsor Castle on the evening of the 15th. On Monday, the 24th, the Prince of Wales reached Dover, and, after sleeping at the Lord Warden Hotel, came to Windsor the following day. The dinner-party in the evening included the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. The Prince of Wales's suite, viz., Sir W. Codrington, Lieutenant-Colonel Ponsonby, Dr. Armstrong, R.N., and Mr. Gibbs



## At Home Once More

were also invited.\* The Prince's sixteenth birthday was celebrated at Windsor, on Monday, November 9, with the usual parade of Household troops. After the review the Prince Consort and his two elder sons went out shooting. Both the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal were certainly present at the dinner-party given at the Castle that evening.

The death of the young Duchesse de Nemours at Claremont on the day following, revived for a moment the sad memories of the Royal tragedy of forty years before.† On the birthday of the Princess Royal, November 21, the Queen presented the Victoria Cross to several soldiers who had won the distinction by their valorous deeds during the late war. The Prince Consort was present, with the Prince of Wales and his elder brothers and sisters. The first three weeks of December were spent at Osborne. It was there the first news of Sir Colin Campbell's success at Cawnpore reached the Queen. This Christmas was a sad one. There was little merriment, but much charity.

\* Sir Kinloch Cooke locates the first dinner-party of the King as taking place at Kew Cottage (1858). It seems quite evident that from the day of his return from Kœnigswinter (October 1857) he was generally included amongst those who dined with the Queen at Windsor and elsewhere.

† The Duchesse de Nemours was the daughter of Ferdinand, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. She died as has been stated on November 10, 1857. The Princess Charlotte died on November 6, 1817. The circumstances attending the death of each were almost identical, and the room occupied at Claremont by the French Princess was immediately over that of the Princess Charlotte.

## CHAPTER XV

CONFIRMATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES AT  
WINDSOR—AT THE WHITE LODGE—"BLARNEY"  
AND KILLARNEY—A MEMORABLE BIRTHDAY  
AND HISTORIC LETTER—COLONEL AND KNIGHT  
OF THE GARTER—FAREWELL TO BOYHOOD.

1858

THE last year of what both Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort evidently regarded as the boyhood of their eldest son commenced, as so many previous years had done, with the usual distribution of food and clothing for the poor in the Riding-school at Windsor Castle, and in the evening the Queen gave a large dinner-party, at which the Prince of Wales was amongst the guests. At the end of the month the illustrious guests invited to the marriage of the Princess Royal with Prince Frederick William of Prussia began to arrive, and on the afternoon of Monday, January 18, the Prince of Wales was present at the dinner given by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in honour of the numerous royalties then in England, and of which King Edward VII. and the King of the Belgians are now probably the only survivors. A Court ball, at which the Prince of Wales was not present, took place two evenings later, the ball being opened by a quadrille in which the Queen, in a magnificent dress, trimmed with lace, heart's-ease, and ornamented with diamonds danced with King Leopold. The wedding, which,

## Marriage of the Princess Royal

like that of the Queen twenty years previously, took place in the Chapel Royal, St. James's, was celebrated on the following Monday (January 25). "Lord Palmerston bore the massive sword of state in its gold and crimson scabbard with a ponderous dignity defiant as a British Lion and careless that more than seventy summers had passed over his brow. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred followed in Highland costume, and then came the Queen leading in either hand Prince Arthur and Prince Leopold, and the little Princesses Louise and Helena dressed in pink tulle, were just behind." So writes one of the contemporary chroniclers of the first separation in the domestic circle of Queen Victoria. In John Phillip's picture, the four sons of the Queen are depicted as wearing kilts and tartan. "Such a houseful," wrote Her Majesty at the beginning of the third week in January 1858, "such bustle and excitement! After dinner a party and a very gay and pretty dance. It was very animated, all the Princes dancing. Albert did not waltz. Ernest [Duke of Coburg] said it seemed like a dream to see Vicky dance as a bride, just as I did eighteen years ago, and I still (so he said) looking very young. In 1840 poor dear papa [the late Duke of Coburg] danced with me as Ernest danced with Vicky." And again on January 25, "The second most eventful day in my life as regards feelings. I felt as if I were being married over again myself, only much more nervous, for I had not that blessed feeling which I had then, which raises and supports one, of giving myself up for life to him whom I loved and worshipped then and ever."

When all was ready for proceeding to the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace, the Queen and Crown Princess were daguerreotyped, together with the

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Prince, "but," says the Queen, "I trembled so, my likeness has come out indistinct. Then came the time to go. The sun was shining brightly; thousands had been out since very early, shouting, bells ringing, &c. Albert and uncle, in field-marshal's uniform with batons, and the two eldest boys, went first. Then the three girls in pink satin trimmed with Newport lace, Alice with a wreath, and the two others with only bouquets in their hair of cornflowers and marguerites. Next the four boys in Highland dress. The hall full. The flourish of trumpets and cheering of thousands made my heart sink within me. Vicky was in the carriage with me, sitting opposite. At St. James's I took her into a dressing-room prettily arranged, where were uncle, Albert, and the eight bridesmaids, who looked charming in white tulle with wreaths and bouquets of pink roses and white heather. Went into the gallery, where mamma (looking so handsome in violet velvet trimmed with ermine, and white silk and violet) and the Cambridges were. All the foreign Princes and Princesses, except uncle, the Prince of Prussia, and Prince Albert of Prussia, were already in the chapel.

"Then the procession was formed, just as at my marriage, only how small the former Royal Family has become! Mamma last before me—then Lord Palmerston with the sword of state—then Bertie and Alfred, I with the two little boys on either side, and the three girls behind. The effect was very solemn and impressive as we passed through the rooms, down the staircase, and across a covered in court." After the ceremony the Prince of Wales attested the register, his signature appearing between that of his grandmother, the Duchess of Kent, and his brother Prince Alfred. His wedding present to

## Confirmation of the Prince of Wales

his sister consisted of a beautiful opal and diamond necklace, brooch and earrings. "*Punch's* poem" in honour of the wedding, entitled "Epithalamium," is quite worth remembering :

"Farewell, young Royal Lady,  
Ne'er may your life wax shady,  
Still may your path be shiny  
All rosy, nothing spiny.

\* \* \*

"May the first line long sit in  
The royal seat of Britain,  
On Prussia's throne the second,  
From you to doomsday reckoned.

"United in alliance  
May these two lines, defiance  
Bid ever more to treason  
By governing with reason."

And in an equally kindly spirit was the cartoon  
"A National Toast" :

"Health and Happiness to the Bride and Bridegroom (Hurrah !)"

The Court remained some time longer at Buckingham Palace, and on February 8 the Prince of Wales was amongst those who listened to the debates in the House of Lords. Two days later he was one of the guests at the Queen's dinner-party, after which a performance was given by Dr. Mark and his juvenile corps in the Picture Gallery. Before the end of the month (February), the Queen and Prince Consort, with all their children, left London for Osborne, the Prince of Wales being, as usual, attended by Mr. Gibbs. After a short stay in the Isle of Wight, the Court removed first to Buckingham Palace, and then to Windsor, where, on Maundy Thursday (April 1) the Prince of Wales was confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury,\*

\* John Bird Sumner.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

after a lengthy examination as to his theological knowledge on the previous day by the Dean of Windsor.\* All the Great Officers of State and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting occupied seats immediately behind the Royal Family. The Bishop of Oxford† read the preface, and the Archbishop of Canterbury performed the ceremony, which he concluded with an Exhortation. The late Duchess of Teck was amongst those present at the Confirmation ceremony. In her diary for April 1, 1858, she wrote: "Breakfasted at nine, and soon after Alice came to us for a little while; then I wrote till it was time to dress for the Confirmation. We assembled shortly after twelve in the Queen's Closet, and thence proceeded to the Chapel, where the Archbishop confirmed the Prince of Wales, who seemed much impressed. . . . The ceremony concluded, we repaired to the green drawing-room, where the guests were conversed with. We then withdrew to the late King's room to give our presents to the Prince of Wales, and afterwards lunched as usual *en famille*." A change of Ministry had taken place five weeks before, but Lords Derby, Palmerston and John Russell were all present. This circumstance seems to have afforded the Prince Consort a text for the following interesting letter to Baron Stockmar on the subject of the Confirmation of the Prince of Wales, and the new phases in his education then about to commence.

"The Confirmation went off with great solemnity, and, I hope, with an abiding impression on his mind.

\* Gerald Valerian Wellesley [1809-1882], Dean of Windsor, 1854-1882. His widow, a great-niece of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu, is still alive (1906).

† Samuel Wilberforce.

## A Choice of Companions

The previous day his examination took place before the Archbishop and ourselves. Wellesley prolonged it to a full hour, and Bertie acquitted himself extremely well. To-day we take the Sacrament with him. . . . Next week he is to make a run of fourteen days to the South of Ireland with Mr. Gibbs, Captain de Ros,\* and Dr. Minter, by way of recreation. When he returns to London he is to take up his residence at the White Lodge in Richmond Park, so as to be away from the world, and devote himself to study, and prepare for a military examination. As companions for him we have appointed three very distinguished young men of from twenty-three to twenty-six years of age, who are to occupy in monthly rotation a sort of equerry's place about him, and from whose intimate intercourse I anticipate no small benefit to Bertie. They are Lord Valletort,† the eldest son of Lord Mount Edgcumbe, who has been much on the Continent, is a thoroughly good, moral, and accomplished man, and never was at a public school, but passed his youth in attendance on his invalid father; Major Teesdale‡ of the Artillery, who distinguished himself greatly at Kars, where he was aide-de-camp and factotum to Sir Fenwick Williams; Major Lindsey of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who received the Victoria Cross for Alma and Inkerman (as Teesdale did for Kars), where he carried the colours of the regiment, and by his courage drew on him the attention of the whole

\* Now 24th Baron de Ros, K.P., K.C.V.O., Premier Baron of England. Lord de Ros was born in 1827. He had been appointed Equerry to the Prince Consort in 1853.

† Now Earl of Mount Edgcumbe (see *ante*, p. 188).

‡ Sir Christopher Charles Teesdale, V.C. [1833-1893], Aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria, 1877.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

army. He is studious in his habits, lives little with the other young officers, is fond of study, familiar with French, and specially so with Italian, spent a portion of his youth in Italy, won the first prize last week under the regimental adjutant for the new rifle drill, and resigned his excellent post as aide-de-camp to Sir James Simpson\*, that he might be able to work as lieutenant in the trenches. Besides these three, only Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Tarvert† will go with him to Richmond. As future governor, when Gibbs retires at the beginning of next year, I have been able as yet to think of no one as like to suit, except Colonel Bruce,‡ Lord Elgin's brother, and his military secretary in Canada, who now commands one of the battalions of Grenadier Guards, and lives much with his mother in Paris. He has all the amiability of his sister, with great mildness of expression and is full of ability."

During the following week (April 1 to 7) Mr. Disraeli, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, who eight years before had taken so keen an interest in the Prince of Wales's learning the catechism, was one of the Queen's visitors at Windsor. Doubtless, by this time, he had been reassured as to the Prince Consort's orthodoxy. The Court removed to London on April 12, and two days previously the Prince of Wales, accompanied by Captain Dudley de Ros, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Minter, had set

\* Sir James Simpson, G.C.B. [1792-1868], wounded at Quatre Bras, 1815. Succeeded Lord Raglan in the Crimea.

† Charles Feral Tarver (see *ante*) became Canon of Chester, May 10, 1873, died 1886 at his living at Stisted, Essex, where he is buried.

‡ The Honble. Robert Bruce [1813-1862]. He married a daughter of Sir M. S. Stewart. Lady Augusta Bruce, who married Dean Stanley, was his sister.



## Blarney and Killarney

out for Southern Ireland. It was just about this time that he had acquired his first velocipede, the successor of the old hobby-horse and the fore-runner of the present bicycle. He had seen one in Dover on the occasion of his visit there during the previous autumn, and the manufacturer seeing the interest he took in the new invention, prepared a special machine for his acceptance, which was then described as "a beautiful structure and capable of going at the rate of eight miles an hour!"

The presence of the Heir Apparent in Ireland excited a good deal of attention. On the road to the Lakes of Killarney he visited Bandon, Bantry and Skibbereen, and an alleged daring attempt to kiss the Blarney stone, evoked from "Mr. Punch" some amusing stanzas after the manner of the following :

"And Captain de Ros, too, it's well he was close to  
The Royal offspring his legs to secure,  
While Biddy Casey, that keeps the kays, she  
Was takin it aisy on the second flure.  
Little was dhramin, how the Prince was schamin  
To be let hang craning down over the wall,  
For a kiss of the stone there, which it's well known there,  
Makes a man a deludther for good and all."

On May 5 (after a short stay in London) the Prince of Wales took up his abode in White Lodge, Richmond Park, where it was announced he would "keep an establishment for some months." This was in 1858. Exactly thirty years later, and on the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's coronation, the present writer passed a day at White Lodge, where the last months of the boyhood of King Edward VII. had been spent. Since then Queen Victoria, the venerable Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke of Teck, and the kindly, charitable and

## The Boyhood of a Great King

unselfish Princess whose record of the Prince of Wales's Confirmation has briefly been alluded to, have all vanished, one after another into the world of shadows, but the account then given of the historic house and its inmates,\* has, it is hoped, still sufficient interest to justify its reproduction in connection with the latest phase of the up-bringing of King Edward VII.

" Fifty years have rolled by since the Princess Mary Adelaide, then a fair-haired, rosy-cheeked, blue-eyed maiden in her fifth year, was led to the drawing-room windows of Cambridge House to see the glittering pageant pass slowly along Piccadilly, on its way to Westminster. The jubilee of the Coronation has come and gone; the pleasant mansion overlooking the Green Park, which became the scene of Lady Palmerston's famous parties after its Royal denizens migrated to the 'Old Dutch House' at Kew, has been converted into a service club; the great majority of those who played a part in the gorgeous procession of June 28, 1838, are now dead and forgotten; but the venerable Duchess of Cambridge still survives to send, in her ninety-first year, a congratulatory message to her Royal niece from St. James's Palace, while her always popular daughter spends the memorable anniversary with her husband and children at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, where Jeannie Deans pleaded with native eloquence the desperate cause of her sister Effie before Queen Caroline, in 'a deep and narrow valley, carpeted with the most verdant and close-shaven turf, and screened from the sun by the branches of lofty elms;' where Lord Nelson in 1802 drew out roughly on a table his plan of breaking the enemy's line while taking wine with Lord

\* *The World*, vol. xxix. for 1888, p. 6.

## The White Lodge and its Associations

Sidmouth, the Ranger; and where some three years later, and only a few months before his own death, William Pitt took a last farewell of *le Sieur Addington, médecin malgré lui*. 'The flower-wreathed brow of Richmond Hill' and the 'meandering stream' below it are still quite as beautiful as when Alaric Watts and Alexander Pope sang their praises; 'the boundless landscape,' described by Thomson, is still as fair to look upon in summer-time as it was when broad-faced, jolly-looking Robert Walpole rode down in hot haste one afternoon in June, 1727, to announce the death of George I. to his son and successor; and if the Hermitage and Merlin's Cave, designed by Stephen Duck and good Queen Caroline, have disappeared under the reforming hand of 'untutor'd Brown,' the deer still graze beneath the shade of the 'time-worn giants' and the 'vigorous plantations of matured and maturing trees' which you pass on your way from Richmond Gate to the White Lodge.

"Standing on the steps of the Doric portico facing the east, you catch a glimpse through the trees of Putney Heath and the tents on Wimbledon Common. Lord Sidmouth, during his long tenure of office, added considerably to the Italian villa which Queen Caroline built as a sort of summer-house, to command the finest view of 'the boundless landscape.' It was 'the Doctor' who planned the semicircular wings with corridors and broad windows leading to groups of apartments which now possess an historical interest. In the modest rooms looking towards Kew the Queen and the Prince Consort passed six weeks of the summer which followed the death of the Duchess of Kent in tranquil retirement. It was in the south wing that the Prince of Wales lived as a bachelor when he first attained

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the dignity of an 'establishment.' The gray stone of the corridors is entirely concealed by a tangle of jasmine, roses, and magnolia; white and yellow blossoms hang in festoons over the windows; and ivy from Bestwood nearly surrounds the open door, before which 'Romo,' a gigantic St. Bernard, gambols with 'Duke,' a long-haired Pomeranian, 'Cavell,' a large-eared basset-hound, 'Boxer,' a wire-haired terrier, and one or two other canine companions. Shrill cries proclaim the fact that the red and green parroquets, which the Princess Mary is keeping for the Duchess of Connaught, decline to live in amity with their neighbour 'Cocky,' one of the oldest inhabitants of the White Lodge. Deep stands faced with blue tiles are filled with pink and white azaleas; the heads of wild boar from Wildpark, in Wurtemberg, and deer slain at Ashridge and Balmoral look down on tables heavily laden with blue and white china; and close to the entrance hang quaint portraits of Anne and William of Holland in Dutch *faïence*, and paintings of George II.'s eldest daughter, who was the Duke of Teck's great-great-grandmother, and Christopher Duke of Wurtemberg, who was a contemporary of Henry VIII. The master of White Lodge, in a straw hat and serge suit, has been looking after his rhododendrons with that diligence which becomes the President of the Botanic Society, and having calmed the too demonstrative transports of the dogs, takes you away to the south corridor, where he keeps his Egyptian relics. Faded engravings of George III. and his consort surmount the door; a few paces further on you see Queen Caroline in a morning gown nursing her daughter, the future Queen of Wurtemberg; Princess Amelia as a baby holding a dove in her hand; and George III. and

## Interesting Mementoes

his youthful brothers and sisters playing in a garden. The deep bay-window looks out on a balcony covered with Gloire de Dijon roses, a thicket of acacias and sweet-scented syringa, the spreading Spanish chestnut-tree beneath which the Princess Mary delights to welcome her friends on Sunday afternoons, and the Pen Ponds beyond. You have no time to enjoy the delightful prospect. You pass rapidly from one historical engraving to another, from the Baron Marochetti's bust of the Duchess of Teck to the inlaid furniture, which was a birthday gift from the Queen ; from the pastels of Mary and Amelia of Orange to the marqueterie cabinet containing the battered Arab standard-top, the embroidered pouches, and the swords which came from Tel-el-Kebir. Lord Wolseley used to describe those relics facetiously as the Duke's 'loot.' They have at last found a home in the Prince of Wales's wing of the White Lodge close to the little breakfast-room, opening on a wide verandah, surrounded by honeysuckle, Virginia creeper, wisearia, and tea-roses.

"The broad stone staircase within sight of the classical portico dates from Queen Caroline's time. It is hung to-day with ancient Windsor tapestry, and a door a few paces beyond it leads you to the white and gold *salon*, with a lofty coved ceiling, and a high wooden mantelpiece, having the monogram G.C.R. on a panel in the centre. The windows directly face the aisle-like avenue of trees commonly known as the Queen's Ride, which stretches away westwards in the direction of Richmond Hill, and seems to lose itself at last in the picturesque beauties of 'Ham's embowered walks.' The floor is covered with a red velvet-pile carpet ; the collection of blue and white *faïence* scattered about the room

## The Boyhood of a Great King

once belonged to the handsome Prince of Transylvania, who smiles with grim satisfaction on his descendant from the walls of the central corridor; the draperies are of gray-blue Louis XIV. satin, with Chinese figures in colour; a tall palm stands in a huge vase of white and blue china; and a screen of gold brocade shelters at once a bust of Charles I., an Italian picture of the Holy Family, and Queen Charlotte's inlaid jewel cabinet, which enshrines the archives of the Surrey Needlework Guild, though the arms of England and Wurtemberg have not yet lost their original splendour. A door in the southern corner of the room is opened, and you find yourself in the boudoir where the Princess Mary and her daughter the Princess Victoria, in the simplest of black dresses, are busily engaged in putting up the papers connected with the 'Distressed Irish Ladies,' and dealing with an accumulation of letters about the Surrey and London Needlework Guilds, in the well-being of which they both take the keenest interest. The Princess Mary is amongst the most constant visitors at the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows, which her father founded; the children of poor prisoners are in many cases saved from ruin by the good work she does in the village homes at Addlestone, which bear her name; the Training Home for Young Servants has no more ardent supporter; in the large-hearted Princess Mary, Mr. George Holland has found the most zealous and able coadjutor for his philanthropic labours amongst the destitute poor of Whitechapel and the East End; and she is a Dame Chevalière of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Before the time of mourning came, she had already 'opened' no less than ten charitable *fêtes* in the course of the first five months of the

## A Home in Richmond Park

year, and the state of her 'own room' at White Lodge affords abundant proof of her determination to make the most of her leisure. The Persian carpet was a present from her brother the Duke of Cambridge; the Duke of Westminster sent her the reproduction of the 'Blue Boy,' which rests on an easel; the 'Surrey Guild' cabinet near the window, on a level with the tops of the almond-trees, was a gift from the late Lord Wilton; and the Princess 'May,' the most patient and capable of amanuenses, writes at a little rosewood escritoire near the door. An old-fashioned card-table placed between them (possibly the one on which Lord Nelson drew his plan) is tenanted by rows of docketed letters, and a Louis XVI. chair is given up to the last reports of the London Needlework Guild, from which you learn that out of a total of 16,739 'articles' provided, the Duchess of Teck and her daughter are responsible for 2165. The plethora of tables and screens in this Royal workroom is at first a little perplexing, but you speedily discover that everything has its use. The Princess Mary's writing-table is covered with serviceable purple cloth; the sofas and chairs are upholstered in homely blue and white chintz; even the official envelopes of the 'messenger cards' are utilised for charity letters; and on the glass screen close to her hand are placed a water-colour sketch of the late Duchess of Gloucester (who spent the last summer of her life at the White Lodge) and portraits of the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family. The walls are covered with Garter-blue flock-paper, the Board of Works is responsible for a gray and white ceiling, and nothing could be prettier than the hangings of blue and cream-colour, with a small Persian pattern. On one of the numerous

## The Boyhood of a Great King

tables rests an excellent portrait of the Empress Victoria, with her name in enamel ; there is a space between the two windows set apart entirely for the valuable miniatures of the Princess Mary's illustrious ancestors, and her friends ' Lady A.\* Lady de Grey, and Lady Delawarr† have each a place in her collection of photographs. Over the miniatures is a French fan, given her long ago by the Empress Eugénie ; close to it is a copy of Angeli's picture of her mother ; above the ' Blue Boy ' is a crayon drawing of her father ; on either side of it are Koberwein's water-colour heads of Prince Adolphus and Prince Francis of Teck ; and on the opposite wall is Sydney Hodges' picture of the Duke of Teck in his ribbon of the Bath. There is nothing amongst her belongings which is associated with more pleasant reminiscences of the past than the finished study for the head of the Princess of Wales, which William Frith gave her as a reward for her valuable assistance in enabling him to ' catch ' the most difficult of sitters. The Princess Mary has a great many letters to finish before post-time. There is, however, much remaining to be seen at the White Lodge ; so you follow Prince Teck to the dining-room, where you admire an original Sir Peter Lely, and the portrait of Anne of Wurtemberg, bequeathed him by the Duchess of Inverness. The paintings of the King and Queen of Bohemia are by Mirevelt ; and on the tapestry-draped staircase the robust form of Schiller's patron, Duke Charles of Wurtemberg, baton in hand, towers above a fireplace lined with Delft tiles.

" The mistress of the White Lodge always speaks

\* Maria, Dowager Marchioness of Ailesbury, one of the most popular *grandes dames* of the " eighteen-eighties."

† Now the Dowager Countess Delawarr.



## An Ideal Library

with grateful enthusiasm of the many marks of attention she has received from English authors of all classes. The old library on the other side of the drawing-room is used by her husband as a study, and here, behind an open screen of Corinthian pillars supporting an elaborately carved frieze, you see the presentation volumes which contain on the fly-leaves the autographs of Samuel Wilberforce, Alison, Motley, Lords Malmesbury, Dufferin, Albemarle, Macaulay, and Stratford de Redcliffe, Fred Burnaby, and twenty other well-known writers. Landseer's portrait rests close by on an easel; a tall jar bristles with spears from Zululand; and a writing-table is placed crossways between the windows looking towards Richmond and Kew. Near it is Mr. Downey's life-like photograph of the Princess Mary bending over her youngest son; her portrait by Weigall hangs above the mantelpiece, on which stands a marble bust of Karl Duke of Wurtemberg, surrounded by brass plates and pewter water-ewers from Tel-el-Kebir and Kassassin.

"From the study you pass into the northern corridor, which brings you to the more modern wing, where the Queen and the Prince Consort spent six weeks of the memorable year which was to end so mournfully. The Princess 'May' has a plainly furnished sitting-room of her own close to the study used by her brothers, Prince Adolphus, who is going out to India to join the 17th Lancers, Prince Francis, still a cadet at Sandhurst, and Prince Alexander, who is acquiring experience in Mr. Austin Leigh's house at Eton. Nothing can be more interesting than to talk to the Princess Mary, whose memory is as good as her mother's, of the engravings hanging on the walls of the corridor, which relate to State

## The Boyhood of a Great King

pageants and ceremonies at which she was present. Like her sister and brother, the Princess Mary was born at the vice-regal palace in the old-world city of Hanover. In 1837 she came with her father and mother to Cambridge House, and in the following summer saw the Coronation procession from the balcony, and wore, she tells you laughingly, pale blue bows on her shoes in honour of the event. Standing before the engraving from George Hayter's painting of the Queen's marriage, she points out all the various personages who, one after another, have died since she held her mother's hand in the Chapel Royal, St. James's. Queen Adelaide, the Duchess of Kent, Leopold King of the Belgians, the stalwart Duke of Sussex, and nearly all the noble guests have passed away ; but the Duchess of Cambridge and her son (then a slim young officer of Cavalry) still live, and it is the little girl with a white dress, golden curls, and a broad sash, in the left-hand corner of the picture who speaks to you. Her father always admired Hayter's dainty figure of his daughter, and the finished study for it is preserved in St. James's Palace. She was a child when the great ball took place at Buckingham Palace, and she remembers her mother, as Anne of Bretagne, dancing with the late Duke of Beaufort, as Louis XII., while her elder sister in blue and silver, in the character of Reine Claude, was the partner of Lord Pembroke, who personated François I. Her father died in 1850 ; and ten months later his young daughter, in deep mourning, was one of the Royal group which assembled in Hyde Park at the opening of the Great Exhibition. The Duchess of Cambridge and her daughter now moved to Kew, and in the following year the Queen gave them rooms at St. James's. Phillips's historical

## An Historic Picture

picture of the Princess Royal's marriage has at the present moment a melancholy interest. You have little difficulty in recognising Princess Mary, who wore a robe of blue silk, white lace, and pink roses, amongst the figures in the foreground. The old German Emperor, the Duke of Albany—the little lad in kilt and tartan, upon whose shoulder the Queen lays her hand so tenderly—Lord Palmerston, who carries the Sword of State, Lord Breadalbane with his wand, Lord Clarendon, Archbishop Sumner who performed the ceremony, and now the young bridegroom himself, are all gone, and of the three bridesmaids kneeling immediately behind the Princess, Lady Cecilia Bingham is the solitary survivor. The Princess Mary speaks with true womanly feeling of the many old friends she has lost, and she preserves amongst her treasures an engraved portrait of Archbishop Longley, who married her in St. Anne's Church, Kew, to the Duke of Teck, just two and twenty years ago. Three years previously she had gone to Mr. Frith's studio in her dress of lilac and silver, to sit for her portrait in his picture of the Prince of Wales's marriage, and she still laughs merrily over her adventures at Pembridge Villas. From 1867 till 1883 the Princess Mary and her children lived at Kensington Palace, where she laboured as indefatigably in the cause of charity and good works as she has done since her removal to the old home of her favourite aunt, amongst the leafy glades of Richmond Park. In the corridor you may notice several other portraits of her husband's ancestors. Maria Dorothea, Empress of Russia, was the sister of the Duke of Teck's grandfather, and he himself bears a strong resemblance to his father, whom you see in his Lancer uniform. The Princess Mary goes

## The Boyhood of a Great King

back to the weighty affairs of the Surrey Needlework Guild, while the Duke, closely followed by his faithful 'Romo' (the gift of his friend Paolo Tosti), leads you across the turf to show you his fernery, his grotto, and his clumps of rhododendrons, which excite the envy of the authorities at Kew. The air is sweet with the scent of many flowers; and as you pass the open gate of the stable-yard, after your pilgrimage round the most beautiful of gardens, you may, perchance, see the model phaeton which Sir John Whittaker Ellis presented a few days ago to the Princess 'May,' in the name of the grateful inhabitants of Richmond. Like her warm-hearted and generous mother, she is already doing her utmost to strengthen, by her own care and consideration for the wants of others, those bonds of affection and respect which draw the hearts of the English people so closely to the members of the Royal Family."

Towards the end of May the Prince Consort left Osborne for Coburg, where, during a short visit to his brother, he hoped to see the Princess Frederick William and her husband. On the 24th of that month the Prince of Wales ran down to Osborne for the Queen's birthday. On the following day (Tuesday, the 25th) the birthday of the Princess Helena was kept. A noted conjurer, Signor Carlo Andreoletti, came from London to exhibit his feats of legerdemain.

The life at White Lodge in the summer of 1858 appears to have combined very happily the requirements of both study and pleasure. In his interesting "Life of the Duchess of Teck," Sir Kinloch Cooke tells us that the Prince of Wales "often rowed from Richmond to Mortlake, and, mooring his boat alongside the landing-stage at Brentford Ferry,

## A Flying Visit to Berlin

would get out and take a stroll in the gardens with his aunt and cousin," adding that "the first dinner-party the Heir Apparent attended was at the Cottage, Kew Green."\*

During his absence on the Continent the Prince Consort, in consequence of the Princess Frederick William of Prussia having suffered a severe sprain and being therefore unable to come to Coburg, had gone to see her at Berlin, travelling in strict incognito. In the early days of the following month the Court removed to Buckingham Palace, and on Monday, June 7, the Queen, with the Princess Alice and Princess Helena, paid a visit to the White Lodge in Richmond Park. On the following day the Prince Consort returned to England. On Saturday, June 26, the King and Queen of the Belgians, accompanied by the Princess Charlotte and the Duke and Duchess of Brabant, arrived at Windsor Castle. On the following Monday the Queen and Prince Consort, with the whole of the foreign Royalties then in England, made a lengthy inspection of the mammoth steamship the *Great Eastern*, called in its early days the *Leviathan*, to the pious horror of the over-critical. At the beginning of July several of the London newspapers began to discuss the possibility of the Prince of Wales's marriage, and one of them proceeded to state that unless he would select a Consort much older than himself his choice was practically limited to the following seven ladies, the only Princesses of Royal blood who were Protestants :

(1) Princess Alexandrina, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia, born February 1, 1842.

(2) Princess Ann of Hesse-Darmstadt, niece of

\* See *ante*, p. 349.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

the Grand Duke of Hesse and of the Empress of Russia, born May 25, 1843.

(3) Princess Augusta of Holstein-Glücksburg, born February 27, 1844.

(4) Duchess Wilhelmina of Wurtemberg, born July 11, 1844.

(5) Princess Alexandra, daughter of Prince Christian of Denmark, born December 1, 1844.

(6) Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg, born June 28, 1845.

(7) Princess Catherine of Oldenburg, sister of the Grand Duchess Nicholas of Russia, born September 21, 1846.

In view of the great event of four years later this comparative matrimonial table is certainly interesting, although it attracted very little notice at the time. On Monday, August 2, the Prince of Wales arrived at Osborne from White Lodge, attended by Lord Valletort and Mr. Gibbs, and embarked with the Queen and Prince Consort on a visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French at Cherbourg. In spite of the feeling of distrust which had arisen on both sides, the Cherbourg *fêtes* proved a great success. The Emperor was described as wearing a General's uniform and the ribbon of the Legion of Honour, while the Empress looked her best "in a travelling tortelle at once elegant and simple and a crinoline of very reasonable dimensions." The Queen and Prince Consort, with the Prince of Wales, dined with the Emperor and Empress of the French on board the *Bretagne*, and the Emperor proposed the Queen's health at dessert in the following terms: "I drink to the health of Her Majesty the Queen of England, and to that of the Prince who shares her Throne, and

## On the French Admiral's Ship

to that of the Royal Family. In proposing this toast in their presence, on board the French Admiral's ship in the port of Cherbourg, I am happy to show the sentiments we entertain towards them. Indeed, facts speak for themselves, and they prove that hostile passions, aided by a few unfortunate instances, did not succeed in altering either the friendship which exists between the two crowns or the desire of the two nations to remain at peace. Therefore I entertain a sincere hope that if attempts be made to stir up the old resentment and the passion of another epoch they will break to pieces upon public common sense as the waves break upon the breakwater which at this moment protects the squadrons of the two Empires against the violence of the sea."

*Punch's* Cherbourg cartoon represented the Emperor showing the Queen a cannon, saying, "A fine gun, your Majesty," to which she replies, "Yes, exactly like a number we have at Woolwich."\* The Queen and the Prince Consort reached London on Monday, August 9, leaving next day for Potsdam. The Prince of Wales returned to the scholastic quietude of White Lodge, and did not accompany the Queen to Leeds, where, on September 7, she inaugurated a new Town Hall, but four days later he left Richmond on a visit to her Majesty at Balmoral. By a strange coincidence in the newspaper which gave a glowing account of the glories of Leeds appeared the following modest note: "The Rev. Dr. Temple, headmaster of

\* See *ante*, p. 347. for correspondence of the Prince Consort on the subject of our national defences. It was in 1858 that many pamphlets on the subject appeared, *e.g.*, Key and Williamson's "Invasion invited by the Defenceless State of England"; Hyslop's (Col.) "The Defence of our Coast," and others.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Rugby School, in order to encourage the study of botany amongst the pupils of that Institution, had offered prizes of £5 and £3 for the best collection of dried wild flowers and plants grown within four miles of the school." Four and forty years later the same Dr. Temple, was, as Primate of All England, destined to crown the student at White Lodge, King of these realms. In 1858 the *Essays and Reviews* controversy was still in the womb of futurity, and the patron of wild flowers was not even looked on as a probable candidate for the honours of the Episcopacy. At Balmoral the Prince and Major Teesdale got a fair amount of grouse-shooting and deer-driving, and, before the Queen returned to Windsor, her eldest son was back again at his books in the north wing of the White Lodge. On October 16, the coming retirement of Mr. F. W. Gibbs, C.B., was announced, and on October 25 the Prince Consort thus writes to the Prince of Prussia, afterwards (1870) German Emperor: "The day after to-morrow, I take Alfred to his ship at Spithead. That same evening he goes to sea.\* His departure will be another great trial for us. The second child lost to our family circle in one year."

Prince Alfred had been for many years the "Affie" of Queen Victoria's Journal and correspondence, and for some time his absence from home was keenly felt. On November 9 the Prince of Wales would enter on his eighteenth year, and it seems to have been tacitly understood that this particular

\* "The *Euryalus*," says Sir T. Martin, "to which Prince Alfred was attached, was destined for the Mediterranean station, where the frigate was to remain for the next two years. The Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales accompanied the young sailor to Spithead, and saw his vessel bearing away on her course before they left him."





THE FIRST PORTRAIT OF KING EDWARD VII.  
IN THE ALMANACH DE GOTHA



THE FIRST PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA  
IN THE ALMANACH DE GOTHA



## Emancipation

birthday should practically be regarded as the end of boyhood, and the beginning of another epoch in his career. On that very day the Prince Consort wrote to the Prince of Prussia : " I ought not to tease you with family trifles, still I will let you know that Bertie, *who to-day solemnises his eighteenth birthday*, proposes to pay a fortnight's visit to his sister, and asks leave to present himself to you. It will not be a State but purely a family visit, and we, therefore beg you only to show him such slender courtesies as are suitable to a member, and a very young one, of the family. To-day he becomes a Colonel in the Army (unattached), and will receive the Garter. Colonel Bruce, Lord Elgin's brother, has become his Governor. Mr. Gibbs retires to-morrow."

Five days previously (November 4) Mr. Greville made the following entry in his diary : " I hear the Queen has written a letter to the Prince of Wales announcing to him his emancipation from parental authority and control, and that it was one of the most admirable letters that ever were penned. She tells him that he may have thought the rule they adopted for his education a severe one, but that his welfare was their only object, and well knowing to what seductions of flattery he would eventually be exposed, they wished to prepare and strengthen his mind against them, that he was now to consider himself his own master, and that they should never intrude any advice upon him, although always ready to give it him whenever he thought fit to seek it. It was a very long letter, all in that tone, and it seems to have made a profound impression on the Prince, and to have touched his feelings to the quick. He brought it to Gerald Wellesley in floods of tears, and the effect it produced

## The Boyhood of a Great King

is a proof of the wisdom which dictated its composition.”\*

The *seventeenth* birthday or the beginning of the *eighteenth* year of the life of the Prince of Wales was signalised by his appointment by Brevet to a Colonelcy in the army. When he arrived at Windsor from White Lodge on the previous day, the Duchess of Cambridge and her daughter, and several other guests, were assembled for the celebration of the morrow's anniversary. After the firing of the *feu de joie* and the usual parade of the troops the Prince of Wales went out shooting with his father and the Duke of Cambridge. The Queen gave a very large dinner-party in the evening, at which the Prince of Wales, Colonel Bruce, the Rev. C. F. Tarver,† Mr. Gibbs and Major Teesdale were all present. The *Illustrated London News*, in honour of the occasion, published a new portrait of the Prince of Wales in Highland costume, which is said to be from a photograph by Mr. Lake Prince, taken the previous year, and lithographed by Mr. R. J. Lane and Mr. J. H. Lynch, stating as a reason for doing so that much interest was excited by the fact “that the two eldest sons of Her Majesty had entered on that phase of life which amongst the ancients was marked by the assumption of the *toga virilis*.” The birthday was also kept in London, where the Royal Standard was duly displayed at the Tower and Greenwich Hospital. *Punch's* tribute to the future King on this occasion was a sketch entitled “A

\* “The Greville Memoirs,” vol. viii. p. 217.

† In 1858 when Mr. Gibbs retired, Mr. Tarver was appointed his Director of Studies and Chaplain, in which capacity he accompanied the Prince to Rome, Spain and Portugal, and then went with him to Edinburgh, remaining with the Prince till the autumn of 1859, when his education ceased to be conducted at home.

## Favourable Impressions at Berlin

little Souvenir to H.R.H. Colonel the Prince of Wales." In it the Sage of Fleet Street, in the garb of a Field-Marshal, is portrayed in the act of presenting an enormous "Life of the Duke of Wellington" to the youthful soldier.

It was announced on November 27 that the Queen had appointed Colonel the Hon. Robert Bruce to be Governor of the Prince of Wales; Brevet-Majors R. J. Lindsay,\* C. Teesdale, and Captain C. Grey† to be equerries, and Viscount Valletort to be extra equerry.

The Prince of Wales's trip to Germany proved a triumphant success. The Prince of Prussia spoke with enthusiasm of his tact and *savoir faire*, and the excellent impression he had made at the Court of Berlin. Lady Bloomfield was delighted to hear so much good spoken of him, and writes to England, that "we gave a ball to the Prince of Wales, which was attended by the Royal Family, and which was opened by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Frederick Charles. I danced with Prince Frederick William as their *vis-à-vis*. It was rather a curious coincidence that my first waiting was at the time of the Prince of Wales's christening, and his first ball seventeen years later at my house."

On December 11 the *Illustrated London News* published another portrait of the Prince of Wales in his uniform as a Colonel in the Army, from a photograph by Mayall, observing that some of the Berlin papers had erroneously asserted that he had appeared in the garb of a Colonel of the Household

\* Robert James Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., born 1832, died 1901, was created first Baron Wantage in July, 1885. He was one of the pioneers of the Volunteer movement. On his death the title became extinct.

† Afterwards General Charles Grey. Father of the fourth and present Earl Grey, born 1804, died 1870.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Brigade. "It is in the neat and simple uniform which unattached officers of the Army alone are allowed to wear that His Royal Highness appears in the portrait before us, and there is only the Ribbon and Star of the Order of the Garter and his youthful countenance to distinguish him from any other officer in the rank and position he holds in the Army." On Christmas Eve the Prince Consort informed Baron Stockmar that the Prince of Wales "*is now very hard at work.*"

The "emancipation" of November 9, 1858, by no means indicated a cessation of mental activity, and the next two years were probably the busiest of the whole of the Prince of Wales's early life. His boyhood, however, is over, and one must sternly resist the temptation to follow him on his tours in Italy and Spain, and to say something of his educational experiences in Edinburgh, and at Oxford and Cambridge. Just nine months later the Prince Consort once more writes to Baron Stockmar, "in Edinburgh I had an Educational Conference with all the persons who are taking part in the education of the Prince of Wales. They all speak highly of him, and he seems to have shown zeal and good will. Dr. Lyon Playfair is giving him lessons in chemistry . . . Dr. Schmitz (the Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, a German) gives him lectures on Roman history. Mr. Fisher, who is to be the tutor for Oxford, was also at Holyrood. Law and history are the subjects on which he is to prepare the Prince."

It is scarcely to be wondered at that just three weeks later *Punch* in a series of really witty verses, once more asserted his right to have a voice in the "making of the future Sovereign."

# A Playful Protest

## A PRINCE AT HIGH PRESSURE

The dear little Wales, sure the saddest of tales  
Is the tale of the studies with which they are cramming thee,  
In thy tuckers and bibs, handed over to Gibbs,  
Who for eight years with solid instruction was ramming thee.

Then, to fill any nook Gibbs had chanced to o'erlook  
In those poor little brains, sick of learned palaver,  
When thoud'st fain roll in clover, they handed thee over  
To the prim pedagogic protection of Tarver.

In Edinburgh next, thy poor noddle, perplexed,  
The gauntlet must run of each science and study,  
Till the mixed streams of knowledge, turned on by the College,  
Through the field of thy boy-brains run shallow and muddy

To the south from the north, from the shores of the Forth,  
Where at hands Presbyterian pure science is quaffed,  
The Prince, in a trice is whipped to the Isis,  
Where Oxford keeps springs mediæval on draught.

Dipped in grey Oxford mixture (lest *that* prove a fixture),  
The poor lad's to be plunged in less orthodox Cam,  
When dynamics and statics, and pure mathematics,  
Will be piled on his brain's awful cargo of cram,

Where next the boy may go to swell the farrago,  
We haven't yet heard, but the Palace they're plotting in ;  
To Berlin, Jena, Bonn, he'll no doubt be passed on,  
And drop in, for a finishing touch, p'raps at Göttingen.

'Gainst indulging the passion for this high-pressure fashion  
Of Prince training, *Punch* would uplift loyal warning ;  
Locomotives we see, over stoked soon may be  
Till the supersteamed boiler blows up some fine morning.

The *Great Eastern's* disaster should teach us to master  
Our passion for pace, lest the mind's water-jacket  
Steam for exit fiercely panting, and safety valves wanting—  
Should explode round the brain, of a sudden, and crack it.”\*

Notwithstanding this well-meant protest, both

\* *Punch*, September 24, 1859.

## The Boyhood of a Great King

Dr. Liddell\* and Dr. Whewell had in turn something to do with the last stage of the Prince of Wales's education, and assuredly no one is likely to quarrel with the general result arrived at.

Speaking of the late Queen Victoria Sir R. Holmes (one of the ablest of her biographers) says, "No monarch who has ever ruled will be regretted more deeply or mourned more sincerely than Queen Victoria; and her monument will be in the hearts of her subjects, in the ideal of sovereignty which she created, and in the undying tradition by which her name will be hallowed while the Empire shall endure." Surely it will be conceded that the most remarkable memorial of the prudence, the wisdom, the foresight, the firmness, the broad-mindedness, the sound judgment, and the untiring industry of both Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort† is to be found in those achievements which make their eldest son to-day not only the most powerful but the most popular of living potentates. That he occupies the unique position he does at the beginning of the twentieth century is mainly

\* See *ante*, p. 218.

† As far back as June 4, 1853, in responding at the Trinity House to the toast of the Royal Family, the Prince Consort made the following prophetic utterance: "It is a blessing attaching to the monarchical institutions of this country that the domestic relations and the domestic happiness of the sovereign are inseparable from the relations and happiness of the people at large. In the progress of the Royal Family through life is reflected as it were, the progress of the generation to which they belong, and out of the common sympathy felt for them arises an additional bond of union amongst the people themselves. I have often been keenly touched by the many proofs of kindness, and, I may say, almost parental affection, with which the Prince of Wales and the rest of our young family have been welcomed on their earliest appearance. May God grant that they may some day repay that affection, and make themselves worthy of it by fulfilling the expectations which the country so fondly cherishes."



## Practical Results

attributable to the wholesome home-influences, the practical common sense, and the never-failing solicitude which surrounded the boyhood and moulded the character of the Great King who fortunately guides the destinies of the Empire at one of the most critical periods of our eventful history.



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